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Honor Guard



United States Army Sgt. Zach Ames, center, who has been on a one-year deployment to Afghanistan, surprises his wife, Bri Ames, left, and their daughter Emersyn, right, with a reunion prior to an NFL football game between the New York Jets and the Seattle Seahawks on Veterans Day, Sunday, Nov. 11, 2012, in Seattle.

(AP Photo/Elaine Thompson)

Nation pays tribute to sacrifices of US veterans

CHRISTINA HOAG
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — From sea to shining sea, the na-

tion paid tribute to its members of the armed services Sunday, both with somber traditions such as a Virginia

wreath-laying ceremony attended by President Barack Obama to honor those who didn't make it

back from active duty, and more lighthearted perks including red-carpet treatment at Las Vegas casinos

for those who did.

Continued on Page 2



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Nation pays tribute to sacrifices of veterans

Continued from Front Page

In California, a long legal case drew to a close as a war memorial cross that had been deemed unconstitutional was being resurrected Sunday in the Mojave desert, capping a landmark case for veterans fighting similar battles on public lands.

Sunday marked the official commemoration of Veterans Day, but the federal holiday will be observed Monday.

President Barack Obama laid the wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia and noted that this is the first Veterans Day in a decade with no American troops fighting and dying in Iraq, and that a decade of war in Afghanistan is coming to a close.

In a speech at the Memorial Amphitheater, he said America will never forget the sacrifice made by its

veterans and their families. "No ceremony or parade, no hug or handshake is enough to truly honor that service," the president said, adding that the country must commit every day "to serving you as well as

you've served us."

He spoke of the Sept. 11 generation, "who stepped forward when the Towers fell, and in the years since have stepped into history, writing one of the greatest chapters in military ser-

vice our country has ever known."

Over the next few years, he said, more than 1 million service members will make the transition to civilian life. "As they come home, it falls to us, their fellow citizens, to

be there for them and their families, not just now but always."

Later, the president and his wife, first lady Michelle Obama, and Vice President Joe Biden and his wife, Jill, greeted families in the cemetery's Section 60, home to graves of service members killed in Afghanistan and Iraq.

In California, a war memorial cross that once stood on a rocky hilltop in a national park before being deemed unconstitutional and ordered removed was being resurrected in the stunningly stark Mojave desert, marking the end of a long-standing legal dispute that had become entangled in patriotism and religion.

Henry Sandoz, who cared for the original cross as part of a promise to a dying World War I veteran, will rededicate a new, 7-foot steel cross on the same hilltop. The site is now in private hands as part of a land swap with the National Park Service that ended the legal battle.

Storm-ravaged New York hosted the country's largest Veterans Day parade with turnout sparse along portions of the 30-block route along Fifth Avenue. Standing in warm fall sunshine, officials said veterans should be honored and remembered more than just one day a year.

"This nation has a special obligation to take care of you," U.S. Deputy Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter told the crowd.

Several officials also made a note of mentioning Vietnam veterans. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War.

One Vietnam vet, 66-year-old Laurence Lynch of New York, said simply, "It's about time. It's about time."

Along a number of blocks of the parade route, just a few dozen spectators were lined along the barricades. Candice and Jeffrey Stark stood nearly alone on one stretch, waving tiny American flags. "We are shocked," Candice Stark said. "Very disappointed and terribly appalled."



President Barack Obama presents a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery during a Veterans Day ceremony in Arlington, Va., Sunday, Nov. 11, 2012.

(AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

Hurdles remain to aid homeless veterans

JULIE WATSON
PAULINE JELINEK
Associated Press

CHULA VISTA, California (AP) — Arthur Lute's arduous journey from his days as a U.S. Marine to his nights sleeping on the streets illustrates the challenge for the Obama administration to fulfill its promise to end homelessness among veterans by 2015.

Lute has post-traumatic stress disorder from the 1983 bombing of the U.S. Marine barracks in Lebanon. He spent years drifting through jobs, two years in prison for assault, then 15 months sleeping in the bushes outside the police department of this city south of San Diego. Today, he lives in a \$1,235 a month, two-bedroom apartment in a working-class neighborhood. The federal government pays nearly 80 percent of the rent and mostly covers the cost of medicines for his depression, high blood pressure, and other health problems. State-funded programs pay for doc-

tor's appointments for his 6-month-old son and therapy for his wife, who he said is bipolar. Lute receives a Social Security check and food stamps. A Department of Veterans Affairs case manager communicates with him regularly and helps avert crises, like when Lute's electric bill jumped in an August heat wave and he couldn't afford diapers.

A county program provid-

ed the crib. The American Legion, a veterans group, donated cooking utensils, dishes and other basics.

An upcoming report is expected to show the number of homeless veterans has dropped by at least 15,000 since 2009, Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric Shinseki says, and the drop is the result of an aggressive two-pronged strategy to not only take veterans off

the street but also prevent new ones from ending up there.

But Shinseki made a bold promise in 2009: The administration would end homelessness among veterans by 2015. The former four-star general says now they're "on target" to meet the goal.

Officials and outside experts said it would take:

—More than doubling of the current, record annual progress.

—Billions more in federal money.

—More improvements and long-term commitment to programs aimed at the root issues that land people on the streets — mental illness, drug and alcohol addiction, unemployment, poverty. Others are keeping their fingers crossed.

Of the country's 22 million veterans, an estimated 75,609 were homeless in 2009 when Shinseki announced the campaign. Veterans make up 14 percent of the U.S. homeless population. □



Veteran Arthur Lute holds his 5-month-old son Evan in his one-bedroom apartment in Chula Vista, Calif. Lute's arduous journey from his days as a U.S. Marine to his nights sleeping on the streets illustrates the challenge the Obama administration faces to make good on its audacious promise: End homelessness among veterans by 2015.

(AP Photo/Gregory Bull)

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Greece passes sweeping 2013 austerity budget

DEMETRIS NELLAS
ELENA BECATOROS
Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece (AP)

— Greek lawmakers approved the country's 2013 austerity budget early Monday, an essential step in Greece's efforts to persuade its international creditors to unblock a vital rescue loan installment without which the country will go bankrupt.

The budget passed by a 167-128 vote in the 300-member Parliament.

It came days after a separate bill of deep spending cuts and tax hikes for the next two years squeaked through with a narrow majority following severe disagreements among the three parties in the governing coalition. Prime Minister Antonis Samaras pledged that the spending cuts will be the last Greeks have to endure.

"Just four days ago, we voted the most sweeping reforms ever in Greece," he said.

"The sacrifices (in the earlier bill and the budget) will

be the last. Provided, of course, we implement all we have legislated."

Athens says that with the passage of the two bills, the next loan installment, worth

lion (\$6.35 billion) worth of treasury bills mature. Finance ministers from the

Wolfgang Schaeuble has indicated it is unlikely that the ministers will decide on the disbursement at that meeting.

"We all ... want to help Greece, but we won't be put under pressure," Schaeuble told the weekly newspaper Welt am Sonntag. Schaeuble said the so-called troika of debt inspectors likely won't deliver their report on Greece's reform program by Monday. The creditors also want to see what the debt inspectors have to say about Greece's debt sustainability. But speaking minutes before the vote, Samaras pledged the bailout funds would be disbursed "on time."

"Finance Minister Yannis Stournaras also stressed the precariousness of Greece's cash reserves, with the treasury bills due on Friday. "Without the help of the European Central Bank, the refunding of these treasury bills from the banking system will lead the private sector to complete suffocation," Stournaras said. □



Greece's Prime Minister Antonis Samaras and his party's lawmakers of the New Democracy applaud after voting on the country's 2013 budget in Athens, early Monday, Nov. 12, 2012. Greek lawmakers have approved the country's 2013 austerity budget, an essential step in Greece's efforts to persuade its international creditors to unblock a vital rescue loan installment without which the country will go bankrupt.

"Greece has done what it was asked to do and now is the time for the creditors to make good on their commitments," he stressed.

€31.5 billion (about \$40 billion), should be disbursed. Without it, the government has said it will run out of cash on Friday, when €5 bil-

(AP Photo/Thanassis Stavrakis)

17-nation eurozone are meeting in Brussels later Monday, with Greece high on the agenda. However, German Finance Minister

Guatemala rattled by 6.5 magnitude quake

R. RUIZ-GOIRIENA
Associated Press

GUATEMALA CITY (AP) — A 6.5-magnitude earthquake shook Guatemala's Pacific coastline on Sunday, just four days after a major quake killed dozens and left thousands without homes in the region. People fled buildings and homes in panic in cities along Guatemala's coast near its border with Mexico on Sunday, but there were no immediate reports of deaths or major damage. Locals

were further panicked by four aftershocks with magnitudes ranging from 4.5 to 5.0. Seismologists say it was the strongest aftershock yet from a 7.4-magnitude earthquake that killed 52 people in western Guatemala on Wednesday. That quake, the country's strongest in 36 years, left thousands of people without homes, electricity or water; and emotionally devastated one small town by wiping out almost an entire family. □

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Explosion levels homes in Indianapolis, 2 dead

CHARLES WILSON
RICK CALLAHAN
 Associated Press
 INDIANAPOLIS (AP) —

A massive explosion sparked a huge fire and killed two people in an Indianapolis neighborhood where about three dozen homes were damaged or destroyed, authorities said Sunday. The powerful nighttime blast shattered windows, crumpled walls and could be felt at least three miles (five kilometers) away.

Aerial photographs of the once-tidy neighborhood of one- and two-story homes showed at least two had been reduced to blackened pits of debris. Other homes had sections gutted by fire or holes in their roofs or exterior walls. Siding dangled from the outside of other homes, and crumpled garage doors hung from houses nearby. Pieces of wood and other building materials littered

the street and surrounding properties.

responding to a call about a single house fire were

leveled and two others that only had the frames

said.

The damage extended two blocks in every direction, he said, and fire officials didn't initially realize the extent of it in the darkness.

City and fire officials said Sunday afternoon that about two dozen homes were uninhabitable and would have to be torn down.

Several more had severe damage but could be fixed.

Residents described a loud boom that shook their homes, blew out windows and collapsed ceilings. They rushed outside to find a chaotic scene with flames rising against the Indianapolis skyline to the north.

Bryan and Trina McClellan were at home with their 23-year-old son Eric when the shock wave from the blast a block away shook their home. It knocked out the windows along one side of their house. □



This aerial photo shows the two homes that were leveled and the numerous neighboring homes that were damaged from a massive explosion that sparked a huge fire and killed two people, Sunday, Nov. 11, 2012, in Indianapolis.

(AP Photo/The Indianapolis Star, Matt Kryger)

It wasn't clear what caused the blast about 11 p.m. Saturday. Firefighters

surprised by a much bigger blaze. The fire centered on four homes, two that were

standing by the time the flames were extinguished, Deputy Chief Kenny Bacon



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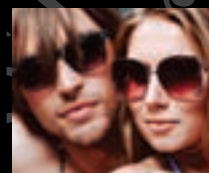
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FBI handling of Petraeus affair questioned

BRIAN KNOWLTON

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WASHINGTON — Lawmakers with authority over intelligence and national

puzzlement that it came to a head within hours of President Barack Obama's re-election. Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-



Gen. David Petraeus, then the NATO International Security Assistance Force commander, with Paula Broadwell, his biographer, in Afghanistan on July 13, 2011 in a handout photo. Lawmakers expressed concern Sunday over the lack of oversight into the inquiry that exposed an affair between Petraeus and Broadwell. (The New York Times)

security expressed consternation on Sunday that the FBI investigation that led to the resignation of David Petraeus as director of central intelligence could have been conducted without the knowledge of officials in the White House or Congress. They also voiced

Calif. and the Senate Intelligence Committee chairwoman, said she wanted to know why the FBI had not notified her and other intelligence committee leaders about Petraeus' affair; she said she learned of it only from news reports Friday and was dumbstruck

when he confirmed it later in a phone call with her. But questioned on "Fox News Sunday," she said that there was "absolutely not" a link between the resignation of Petraeus and the Sept. 11 attack on the United States mission in Benghazi, Libya. The CIA has been criticized for providing a flawed early report about the attack. "It seems this has been going on for several months," said Rep. Peter King, R-N.Y. and chairman of the House Homeland Security Committee, "and yet now it appears that they're saying the FBI did not realize until Election Day that Gen. Petraeus was involved. It just doesn't add up." "The timeline has to be looked at and analyzed,"

he said on CNN's "State of the Union." "Because obviously this was a matter involving a potential compromise of security and the president should have been told about it at the earliest stage." Lawmakers appearing on Sunday television programs broadly praised Petraeus personally, lauding him in warm and even emotional terms as a leader of rare talent, his resignation a loss to the nation, his personal flaws a secondary concern to some. "David Petraeus is a great leader, a great patriot, and he is a guy who has probably contributed more to the safety of the United States of America over the last decade than any one single individual."

Senators discussing immigration reform

MICHELE SALCEDO

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Two senators on opposite sides of the aisle are proposing comprehensive changes to immigration laws that would include a pathway to citizenship for the estimated 11 million illegal immigrants now in the United States.

Democrat Chuck Schumer of New York and Republican Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, who promoted similar proposals on separate Sunday TV news shows, said that no path to citizenship would be available until the country's borders were secure.

Only then could those in the U.S. without authorization "come out of the shadows, get biometrically identified, start paying taxes, pay a fine for the law they broke," Graham said

on CBS' "Face the Nation." "They can't stay unless they learn our language, and they have to get in the back of line before they become citizens. They can't cut in front of the line regarding people who are doing it right and it can take over a decade to get their green card." A green card grants permanent residency status, and is a step on the road to citizenship. Immigration policy, largely ignored during President Barack Obama's first four years in office, has re-emerged as a major issue as Republicans seek ways to rebound from their election performance. More than 70 percent of Hispanic voters supported Obama, who has been more open than Republicans to a comprehensive overhaul of immigration laws.

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Lawyers question lone gunman claim

KIRK JOHNSON

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JOINT BASE LEWIS-Mc-

CHORD, Wash. — A defense lawyer for Army Staff Sgt. Robert Bales pressed witnesses over the weekend about whether more than one soldier might have been involved in the killings of 16 Afghan civilians earlier this year.

A 15-year-old boy named Rafiullah, for example, speaking through a translator, described being shot in the legs on the morning of March 11 in Kandahar province. Under questioning by a prosecutor, Rafiullah said he saw only one gunman that night, who shot him, his sister and his grandmother one after another with a pistol.

Did he remember telling an interviewer from the defense team just last month that he had seen “many soldiers,” Bales’ lead defense lawyer, John Henry Browne, asked.

“There might have been some soldiers,” the boy answered. “We were scared.” The government, in a case that has unfolded in a pretrial evidentiary hearing that began Monday, claims that Bales acted alone when he walked away from his remote outpost in southern Afghanistan and shot and stabbed members of several families in a nighttime ambush. At least nine of the people he is accused of killing were children, and others were women. After the victims were shot, some of the bodies were dragged into a pile and burned.

Prosecutors said the slayings, the deadliest war crime attributed to a U.S.

soldier in decades, might have been in response to a fellow soldier losing a leg to a bomb several days earlier, or because of the alcohol that witnesses have said Bales drank earlier that evening, or the steroids that an investigator testified were found in his bloodstream.

But defense lawyers have

To accommodate witnesses in Afghanistan, and the 12 1/2-hour time difference, the court scheduled night sessions on Friday and Saturday, with testimony through cameras and uplinks in Afghanistan and here at Lewis-McChord.

One 7-year-old girl who was shot in the leg testified on Saturday night that she



Army Staff Sgt. Robert Bales, left, at Fort Irwin and the National Training Center in California, Aug. 23, 2011, in a handout file photo.

(The New York Times)

suggested in their questioning of witnesses in the hearings — intended to establish whether there is enough evidence to bring him before a court-martial — that the government’s account is too tidy. They have reminded witnesses of words like “raid” that were used in the earlier accounts of the attack, and asked others about reports of hearing helicopters.

Bales, a 39-year-old non-commissioned officer who has served 11 years in the Army, with three tours in Iraq before his deployment last year to Afghanistan, has not entered a plea, and could face the death penalty if the hearing leads to a court-martial prosecuted as a capital case.

saw many lights in the fields around her home at about the time a gunman came in firing.

“Almost like daylight,” said the girl, named Robina, under questioning by Browne, who called her as a defense witness.

Were they individual lights, he asked, “like a helmet?” “Too many lights,” the girl responded.

How the uncertainty and variability of witness accounts — common in the chaotic context of a crime scene, as police have known for generations — might influence the findings by the investigating officer in the hearings, Col. Lee Deneke, cannot be known until he files his report after the evidentiary process. □

120K customers in NY, NJ still without power

CHRISTINA REXRODE

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — About 120,000 homes and businesses in New York and New Jersey are still waiting for the lights to come back on about two weeks after Superstorm Sandy.

The Long Island Power Authority in New York still has the most customers out with about 100,000 on Sunday night.

The totals include 55,000 customers who are without power even though their local grid is back online. LIPA

says it isn’t safe to connect those homes and businesses yet because their wiring and other equipment was flooded.

Consolidated Edison had more than 3,000 customers in New York without power Sunday.

About 14,000 New Jersey residents were still without electricity.

The prolonged lack of power as well as dearth of information about when it will be restored has angered residents and government officials alike. □

Alaska ice tested as new energy source

DAN JOLING

Associated Press

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)

— A half mile (800 meters) below the ground at Prudhoe Bay, above the vast oil field that helped trigger construction of the trans-Alaska pipeline, a drill rig has tapped what might one day be the next big energy source.

The U.S. Department of Energy and industry partners over two winters drilled into a reservoir of methane hydrate, which looks like ice but burns like a candle if a match warms its molecules. There is little need now for methane, the main ingredient of natural gas. With the boom in production from hydraulic fracturing, the United States is awash in natural gas for the near future and is considering exporting it, but the DOE wants to be ready with

methane if there’s a need.

“If you wait until you need it, and then you have 20 years of research to do, that’s not a good plan,” said Ray Boswell, technology manager for methane hydrates within the DOE’s National Energy Technology Laboratory.

The nearly \$29 million science experiment on the North Slope produced 1 million cubic feet (30,000 cubic meters) of methane. Researchers have begun the complex task of analyzing how the reservoir responded to extraction.

Much is unknown but interest has accelerated over the last decade, said Tim Collett, a research geologist for the U.S. Geological Survey in Denver.

U.S. operators in Alaska, he said, may want to harvest methane so they can re-inject it into the ground. □



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Senate battle brewing over rules changes

ALAN FRAM

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A brewing and potentially bitter fight over Democratic efforts to curb procedural rules allowing a minority to block votes on legislation is threatening to inflame partisan tensions in the Senate, even as President Barack Obama and Republicans explore whether they can compromise on top tier issues such as debt reduction and taxes.

A potential showdown vote to limit Senate filibusters would not come until January. Democrats are threatening to resort to a seldom-used procedure that could let them change the rules without Republican support, all but inviting Republican retaliation.

Filibusters are a procedural tactic that lets the minority party block bills that lack the support of at least 60 senators. Democrats seem likely to command a 55-45 majority in the new Senate, making 60 a difficult hurdle. Frustrated by Senate Re-

publicans' growing use of filibusters, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid is considering a Senate vote in the new year to limit their use.

"I think that the rules have been abused and that we're going to work to change them," Reid told reporters this past week. "We're not going to do away with the filibuster, but we're going to make the Senate a more meaningful place, we're going to make it so that we can get things done."

The fight is looming as the newly re-elected Obama and Republican congressional leaders prepare to use the lame-duck session of the outgoing Congress that starts Tuesday to hunt for compromise on the "fiscal cliff" — the nearly \$700 billion worth of tax increases and spending cuts next year that automatically begin in January unless lawmakers head them off. That effort will be contentious enough without added animosity over efforts

to weaken the filibuster. Unless a filibuster compro-

isolation when the new Congress begins work in Janu-

of senators, and they argue that the Constitution lets Senate majorities write new rules for the chamber. That, in effect, would mean Democrats could change the rules over Republican opposition, assuming 51 Democrats go along.

Republicans say they filibuster legislation because Reid blocks them from offering amendments. They also note that Senate rules require that the body's procedures can be changed only by a two-thirds majority. Changing Senate rules by simple majority, rather than a two-thirds vote, is rarely done and referred to as "the nuclear option" because it is considered an extreme move that can trigger all-out partisan battling. □



Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid of Nev. listens to a question during a news conference on Capitol Hill in Washington. Frustrated by Senate Republicans' growing use of filibusters, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid is considering a Senate vote in the new year to limit their use.

(AP Photo/Susan Walsh)

mise is reached, the dispute could produce sour partisan feelings that might hinder cooperation on leg-

ary.

Democrats say the vote to change the rules would require a simple majority

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FLIGHT daily: 4:45 8:00 matinee: 1:30 late show: 11:00 SP R		FLIGHT daily: 5:15 8:15 matinee: 2:15 late show: 11:15 SP R	
TAKEN 2 daily: 9:30 matinee: 12:00 late show: 11:00 SP PG-13		TAKEN 2 daily: 6:30 9:45 matinee: 12:00 late show: 11:00 SP PG-13	
PARANORMAL ACTIVITY 4 daily: 7:15 11:30 matinee: 1:30 late show: 11:30 SP R		PARANORMAL ACTIVITY 4 daily: 10:00 12:00 matinee: 1:30 late show: 11:30 SP R	
SECRET OF THE WINGS 2D daily: 5:00 12:30 2:45 matinee: 1:30 late show: 11:30 G		SECRET OF THE WINGS 2D daily: 5:00 12:30 2:45 matinee: 1:30 late show: 11:30 G	
ARGO daily: 7:00 late show: 11:30 SP R		ARGO daily: 9:30 12:00 late show: 11:30 SP R	
SILENT HILL: REVELATION daily: 9:30 matinee: 1:30 late show: 11:45 PG-13		WRECK IT RALPH 2D daily: 4:45 matinee: 1:30 late show: 11:30 SP NEW PG	
SINISTER daily: 8:45 matinee: 1:30 late show: 11:15 R		CRYSTAL THEATER SKYFALL SP Thursday: 8:30	

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EU leaders, royalty remember end of WWI

PARIS (AP) — Politicians and royalty observed a moment of silence at tombs across Europe on Sunday to commemorate the end of fighting in World War I and remember the millions of soldiers who died in that conflict.

Under Paris' iconic Arc de Triomphe, President Francois Hollande remembered the Armistice by placing a wreath at the tomb of the unknown soldier. King Albert II echoed that gesture in the Belgian capital. Britain's Queen Elizabeth II, meanwhile, brought flowers to the Cenotaph in central London.

In the British capital, Big Ben rang out to mark the 11th hour, when the truce took

effect, and then dignitaries there and around the continent observed a moment of silence.

While Nov. 11 marks the

end of fighting in World War I, Britain and, for the first time France, remembered all of their war dead on Sunday.



Britain's Queen Elizabeth II stands in front of politicians, during the service of remembrance at the Cenotaph, in Whitehall, London, Sunday, Nov. 11, 2012. The annual service is a memorial to remember the members of the armed forces who have died in the line of duty.

(AP Photo/Kirsty Wigglesworth)

As a nod to the new ritual, the children of two soldiers who died in Afghanistan helped Hollande lay wreaths at several spots in Paris, including a plaque that pays homage to students who defied a German order not to commemorate Armistice Day in 1940, when northern France was under occupation.

Poppies, woven into wreaths and worn on lapels, figured everywhere Sunday. The flowers became a symbol for the fallen soldiers of World War I because of the poem "In Flanders Field," which describes the blooms growing over the graves of dead soldiers. □

Israel drawn into Syria crisis for first time

JOSEF FEDERMAN

Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel was drawn into the fighting in neighboring Syria for the first time Sunday, firing warning shots across the border after an errant mortar shell landed near an Israeli military installation in the Golan Heights. While Israel appeared eager to calm the situation, its response was a potent reminder of how easily the Syrian civil war — already spilling across borders with Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan — could explode into a wider regional conflagration. Israeli officials threatened even tougher retaliation if attacks persist.

They have feared that the instability in Syria over the past 19 months could spill across the border into Israel, particularly as President Bashar Assad's grip on power grows increasingly precarious.

Israel has little love for Assad, who has provided refuge and support to Israel's bitterest enemies through the years. But the Syrian leader — and his father before him — have kept the frontier quiet for nearly four decades, providing a rare source of stability in the volatile region. The Israeli military said the mortar fire caused no injuries or damage at the post in the Golan Heights, which Israel captured from Syria in the 1967 Mideast war and then annexed.

In recent weeks, incidents of errant fire from Syria have multiplied, leading Israel to warn that it holds Syria responsible.

Israeli officials believe most of the fire has come from Syrian government forces, although they think it has been inadvertent and not been aimed at Israel. □

BBC trust head calls for radical overhaul

CASSANDRA VINOGRAD

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — The head of the BBC's governing body said Sunday the broadcaster needs a radical overhaul following the resignation of its chief executive in the wake of a scandal over a botched report on child sex-abuse allegations.

Chris Patten vowed to restore confidence and trust in the BBC, which is reeling from the resignation of George Entwistle and the scandals prompting his ouster.

Entwistle resigned Saturday night amid a storm of controversy after a news program wrongly implicated a British politician in a child sex-abuse scandal, deepening a crisis sparked by revelations it decided not to air similar allegations against one of its own stars. Patten told the BBC on Sunday he will not resign, saying he must ensure the publicly funded broadcast-

er "has a grip" and gets back on track.

"My job is to make sure that ... we restore confidence and trust in the BBC," he said, and called for a "thorough, radical structural overhaul."

The scandal comes at a sensitive time for Britain's media establishment, which is struggling to recover from an ongoing phone-hacking scandal that brought down the nation's best-selling Sunday newspaper, led to the arrests of dozens of journalists and prompted a judge-led inquiry into journalistic ethics and the ties between politics and the news media. Kevin Marsh, a former senior editor of the BBC, said the resignation does little to re-establish public trust in the BBC, which is funded mainly by a tax on U.K. households that have televisions.

"The BBC asks the British public to pay its bills every year, and the only way

it can do that is if the British public trusts the way it is spending its money," he said.

Entwistle took over as head of the BBC two months ago from Mark Thompson, who will become chief execu-

tive of The New York Times Co. on Monday. The broadcaster was emerging from a difficult period marked by budget cuts, job losses and mounting calls to justify its 3.5 billion pound (\$5.6 billion) budget. □



The BBC Director General, George Entwistle, left, stands with the Chairman of the BBC Trust, Lord Chris Patten, as he announces his resignation as Director General outside New Broadcasting House in central London, after recent news program problems, Saturday Nov. 10, 2012.

(AP Photo/ Max Nash)

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Syrian opposition groups reach unity deal in Qatar

ABDULLAH REBHY
Associated Press

DOHA, Qatar (AP) — Syrian anti-government groups struck a deal Sunday under intense international pressure to form a new opposition leadership that will include representatives from the country's disparate factions fighting to topple President Bashar Assad's regime, activists said.

The opposition has been deeply divided for months despite the relentless bloodshed in Syria and repeated calls from their Western and Arab supporters to create a cohesive and representative leadership that could present a single conduit for foreign aid. The agreement, reached Sunday after more than a week of meetings in the Qatari capital of Doha, could boost efforts to se-

cure international support — and potentially weapons — that will be crucial in the war to oust Assad.

"We have agreed on the broad platform and all (opposition) parties, without any exception, support



Syrian dissident Riad Seif, center, speaks to the media at the meeting of the General Assembly of the Syrian National Council in Doha, Qatar. Late Sunday, delegates elected Islamic preacher Maath al-Khatib president of the new coalition. Riad Seif and Suheir Atassi were elected vice presidents.

(AP Photo/Osama Faisal)

this initiative," said Ali Sadr el-Din Bayanouni, a former Syrian Muslim Brotherhood leader who took part in the talks.

He said the new leadership will be called the Syrian National Coalition for Opposition and Revolutionary Forces.

Later Sunday, the delegates elected Islamic preacher Maath al-Khatib president of the new coalition. Leading opposition figures Riad Seif and Suheir Atassi were elected vice presidents. Mustafa Sabagh was voted the coalition's secretary-general. Al-Khatib said opposition fighters are "searching for freedom," claiming that if any carried out improper acts, it was because of the "regime's brutality."

He said the Syrian rebels will avoid acts of revenge in the future, noting that many soldiers security of-

ficers are "honorable people whom we call them upon to defect from the corrupt regime." In a bid to be more representative and curb the influence of exiles considered out of touch with events on the ground, the new coalition will include activists from inside Syria as well as rebel commanders.

It will also include representatives from the largest current opposition group, the Syrian National Council, which initially resisted the idea of a new leadership council, viewing it as a threat to its claim of primacy. After some wrangling, the SNC secured 22 of the 60 seats in the new coalition. SNC secretary-general Bassam Ishak said, "This new body will help up mobilize more international support and resources for the Syrian opposition," he said. □

Israel, Gaza militants trade fire

ARON HELLER
IBRAHIM BARZAK
JERUALEM (AP) — Israeli

forces struck targets in the Gaza Strip on Sunday, killing one Palestinian and wounding more than 30 others as militants launched dozens of rockets in some of the heaviest fighting the area has seen in months.

The flare-up increased pressure on the Israeli government to put an end to the violence, which escalated over the weekend and could turn into a major conflagration just two months before the country's general election.

Israeli leaders quickly amped up their rhetoric, warning Gaza's Islamic Hamas rulers they will pay a heavy price should they allow rocket fire toward Israel to continue. "The world must understand that Israel will not sit idly in the face of at-



A Palestinian stands in a factory hit by an Israeli tank shell in Beit Hanoun, northern Gaza Strip, Sunday, Nov. 11, 2012.

(AP Photo/Hatem Moussa)

tempts to attack us," said Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. "We are prepared to intensify the response." Low-level cross-border fighting is common in the border area, but clashes escalated Thursday night when an explosives-packed tunnel under the Gaza-Israel frontier

blew up, in what the Israeli military called an attempt by Palestinian militants to kill or kidnap soldiers. Palestinians said the blast was a roadside bomb to avenge the death of an 11-year-old boy who was shot dead earlier in the evening during an exchange of fire with Israelis. □

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Ireland votes for children's rights

Associated Press

DUBLIN (AP) — Official returns show that voters have approved an amendment to insert stronger rights for children into Ireland's constitution with a narrower-than-expected 57.4 percent "yes" vote. Only a third of registered voters participated in Saturday's referendum, reflecting a low-key campaign. All political parties and children's charities supported the "yes" side. Prime Minister Enda Kenny said Sunday the amendment will allow his government to pass laws making it easier for Irish children to be adopted, for courts to remove children from abusive homes and for children to testify in court. Analysts say the unexpectedly high "no" vote reflects low turnout among "yes" voters, anti-government feeling, and a surprise Supreme Court ruling.



A voter casts his vote at a polling station in Dublin, Ireland Saturday Nov. 10, 2012 as voting got under way across Ireland on a referendum that would insert stronger rights for children into the constitution, making it easier for state agencies to protect children from abuse and for neglected kids to be adopted.

(AP Photo/Julien Behal/PA Wire)

Ireland's highest court found that the government's information booklet on the children's rights amendment was biased and violated referendum law. □

Man dressed in Afghan uniform kills UK soldier

SLOBODAN LEKIC

Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)

— A gunman wearing an Afghan army uniform shot and killed a member of the U.S.-led coalition forces fighting in Afghanistan on Sunday — the latest in a spate of insider attacks that are fracturing the trust between NATO and Afghan forces. Separately, officials said 11 Afghan civilians were killed by land mines on Sunday in explosions in the east and south.

The U.K. Ministry of Defense confirmed that the insider attack had claimed the life of a British soldier from The Royal Scots Borderers, 1st Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland. It said the soldier was shot by an individual wearing an Af-

ghan army uniform at his base in the Nade-e Ali district of Helmand province. The defense ministry did not name the serviceman but said his next of kin have been informed. Mohammad Zarak, spokesman for the governor of southern Afghanistan's Helmand province, said the shooting took place in Nad Ali district after an argument between an Afghan soldier and coalition service members. Coalition figures show at least 60 coalition service members have been killed so far this year and others have been wounded in about 45 insider attacks, where members of the Afghan security forces or insurgents dressed in their uniforms turn their guns on U.S. and allied troops. □

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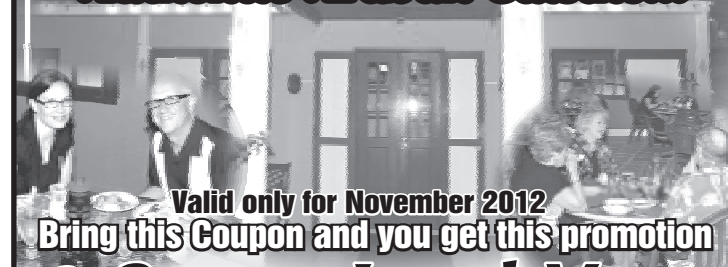
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Vatican digs in after gay marriage advances



Pope Benedict XVI delivers his blessing during the Angelus prayer from his studio window overlooking St. Peter square, Sunday, Nov. 11, 2012. The Vatican is digging in after gay marriage initiatives scored big wins this week in the U.S. and Europe, vowing to never stop insisting that marriage can only be between a man and a woman.

(AP Photo/Alessandra Tarantino)

NICOLE WINFIELD
Associated Press

VATICAN CITY (AP) — The Vatican is digging in after gay marriage initiatives scored big wins this week in the U.S. and Europe, vowing to never stop insisting that marriage can only be between a man and a woman.

In a front-page article in

Saturday's Vatican newspaper L'Osservatore Romano, the Holy See sought to frame itself as the lone voice of courage in opposing initiatives to give same-sex couples legal recognition. In a separate Vatican Radio editorial, the pope's spokesman asked sarcastically why gay marriage proponents don't now

push for legal recognition for polygamous couples as well.

Catholic teaching holds that homosexuals should be respected and treated with dignity but that homosexual acts are "intrinsically disordered." The Vatican also opposes same-sex marriage, insisting on the sanctity of marriage between a man and woman as the foundation for society.

The Vatican's anti-gay marriage media blitz came after three U.S. states approved same-sex marriage by popular vote in the election that returned Barack Obama to the U.S. presidency, Spain upheld its gay marriage law, and France pushed ahead with legislation that could see gay marriage legalized early next year.

"One might say the church, at least on this front, has been defeated," L'Osservatore Romano wrote. "But that's not the case."

The article insisted that

Catholics were putting up a valiant fight to uphold church teaching in the face of "politically correct ideologies invading every culture of the world" that

are backed by institutions like the United Nations, which last year passed a non-binding resolution condemning anti-gay discrimination. □



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Iran to probe death of blogger

NASSER KARIMI
Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iran's parliament announced Sunday it would probe reports that a jailed blogger died suspiciously in custody earlier this week, according to the official IRNA news agency.

This was Iran's first official reaction to the death of Sattar Beheshti, in a rare example of parliament taking up allegations of human rights abuses first raised internationally. The case gained publicity over the weekend when U.S. State Department and a press freedom group called for an inquiry. It was known that the blog-

ger died in custody, but how he died was not disclosed.

Deputy parliamentary speaker Mohammad Hasan Abutorabifard said that the legislature's influential committee on national security and foreign policy has been assigned to look into the circumstances of Beheshti's death.

"The committee has been informed about the incident and its report will be announced to the nation and lawmakers," IRNA quoted Abutorabifard as saying. The announcement came after a speech by lawmaker Ahmad Tavakoli, a prominent conservative critic of President Mah-

moud Ahmadinejad, in the open session of the parliament that was broadcast on state radio, in which he criticized officials for their silence over a case that has received international attention. "Why do the Foreign Ministry and judiciary not explain this? A death has happened and it should be explained," said Tavakoli.

"How can summoning a blogger (for questioning) be useful? Why do you generate expenses for the Islamic system?" he said. He urged authorities to look for "corrupt" officials who have been involved in the case, instead of mistreating bloggers. □

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Slovenia presidential election moves to runoff

ALI ZERDIN

Associated Press

LJUBLJANA, Slovenia (AP)

— No candidate appeared to win an outright majority in Sunday's presidential election in Slovenia, and a runoff is expected next month between the incumbent and a former prime minister.

Former Prime Minister Borut Pahor was first with 40 percent of the vote, followed by President Danilo Turk, with 36.2 percent and center-right candidate Milan Zver at 24 percent, the state election commission said after 99.9 percent of the ballots were counted. If that outcome holds when the commission announces the official results in the

coming days, a runoff between the top two candidates will be held on Dec. 2.

Pahor's lead was viewed as a surprise since Turk had been tipped to be the frontrunner in Sunday's election.

But a runoff had been widely expected in the race for the presidential office — a largely ceremonial post in Slovenia but one that commands political authority.

When the initial result started coming in, Pahor said the "confidence of the people is much higher than I had expected."

"But I can promise that my activities and achievements — if I am elected

president — will be much higher than expected," he added.

Political analyst Tone Jerovsek said Pahor was finishing first because "his statements were never radical," convincing the voters that he could bring together Slovenia's divided political scene.

A disappointed Turk said he looks forward to a runoff.

The election comes as Slovenia — a small, economically struggling country of 2 million — faces risks of needing an international economic bailout.

Chosen for a five-year term, the president heads the army and proposes the national bank chief. The latter is an especially sensitive



Former Slovenia's Prime Minister Borut Pahor addresses the media in Ljubljana, Slovenia, Sunday, Nov. 11, 2012.

(AP Photo/Darko Bandic)

task considering the severe financial crisis caused here by state-owned banks' rampant lending. The presidential race also affects political stability in Slovenia, where the government of Prime Minister Janez Jansa faces strong opposition to the reform package it believes will help save the economy, such as pension and labor reforms.

Jansa's government also has pushed for the recapitalization of banks and the creation of a so-called wealth fund to manage state property, but the op-

position is demanding a referendum be held on those measures. Jansa said Sunday that his support for any of the two candidates in the second round will depend on their endorsement of the reform package. Both Turk and Pahor have criticized Jansa's government. But they also have called for unity in the face of the crisis.

"Slovenia is a country for all ... our mutual obligation and our mutual responsibility," the 60-year-old Turk said upon casting ballot on Sunday. □



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African leaders agree to send troops to help Mali

LAGOS, Nigeria (AP) — Nigerian state-run TV says a bloc of West African nations has agreed to send 3,000 troops to stabilize Mali. The decision came late Sunday at the end of an emergency ECOWAS bloc summit in Nigeria's capital. Military experts from the U.N., ECOWAS, Europe and the African Union have drafted a plan to recapture northern Mali from militants, but it would need final approval from the Af-

rican Union and the U.N. Security Council before it could be carried out. Mutinous soldiers overthrew Mali's democratically elected president more than seven months ago, creating a power vacuum that paved the way for Islamists to grab the north. Security analysts and diplomats say that even if the deployment of troops to north Mali is approved by the U.N. it could take months to implement. □



"I AM a Caribbean Queen"

Caribbean Queen store opening highlights fashion, arts and community

PALM BEACH - Beauty was in abundant supply during a recent fashion show in celebration of the opening of the Caribbean Queen store at Palm Beach Plaza. Radiating both poise and strength, women who make invaluable contributions through local foundations walked the runway displaying Caribbean style accented by powerful attitudes. Government dignitaries, including Minister of Economic Affairs, Social Affairs and Culture Michelle Hooyboer-Winklaar, took part in the dual celebration of community and of a store that is a stand-out for its unique merchandise as much for its dedication to acts of corporate responsibility.

"Each Caribbean island is different in terms of culture and tradition, but they all have one thing in common: the backbone of society is the strong and lively spirit of the West Indian woman," explains store owner Jodi Tobman. "The boutique is intended to offer fabulous accessories befitting a 'Caribbean Queen'." The new Caribbean Queen store is unique for its colonial-West Indies style as well as for its overall concept. The boutique invites customers to "Adorn Thyself" with its splendid array of jewelry, handbags, hats, hair ornaments, belts, and shoes. Each month, Caribbean Queen also features the handcrafted accessories of a local female artisan, thereby promoting the artistic talents of women in Aruba. Recently featured Caribbean Queen artists include Omayra Toro, Candy Rasmijn Reino, Daphne Lejuez and Elisa Lejuez.

In addition, a percentage of sales within the Salamander Group, of which

the Caribbean Queen is a part -- along with the stores: The Juggling Fish, The Lazy Lizard, The Coconut Trad-

ribbean Queens" one and all, such as Lili Prince and Carmen Maduro from KWF, Melva Croes from the Al-



ing Co. and T.H. Palm & Company -- go to assist the foundations of Alzheimer Aruba, Ateliers' 89 (for the arts), Aruba International Dance Foundation, The Pancake Gallery (youth arts summer workshop), Au-

zheimers Foundation, Astrid Muller and Suzette DeLisle from Fundacion pa Hende Muhe den Dificultad, Monique Kuiperi, Thaisse Erasmus and Dilma Arends from the Autism Foundation, Dianne Uchtmann, Femme



tism Foundation, Edmund E. Harms Foundation, Fundacion pa Hende Muhe den Dificultad (domestic violence), Kibrahacha (senior citizens center), Telefon pa Hubentud (youth help line) and Koningin Wilhelmina Fonds (KWF) (cancer awareness, prevention and support).

The celebration of the official opening of the Caribbean Queen store featured a fashion show and the participation of women who are not only models, but also true role models for the community. Women, "Ca-

Fingal and Evelina Ras from Kibrahacha and Wilma Kuiperi (who ended the fashion show with the finale of a dance performance) from Aruba International Dance Foundation, who juggle work and family, while also volunteering their time in making a difference.

"I'm grateful that I get to call Aruba my home. I love that I get to do my part to help the community which has been so open to my building the career I enjoy here on this magnificent island, and to have been able to create a store that



honors the daughters of the Aruban soil as well as those like myself who put down roots and grew here," comments Jodi Tobman, who originally hails from Massachusetts, but who has lived in Aruba for many years.

"Through the new store, I want to invite women to discover their 'inner queen' and embrace their own individual strengths and beauty and proudly proclaim 'I AM a Caribbean Queen'."

Caribbean Queen, located at Palm Beach Plaza, is open to the public daily, Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Sundays and Holidays from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. Caribbean Queen is a participating store within the Salaman-



der Group's corporate responsibility "Think Global, Act Local" program titled: Tikkun Olam, which loosely translates from the Hebrew as "repairing the world", and which follows the simple yet effective philosophy that the betterment of the community is possible through individual actions. A portion of sales are donated to a selection of invaluable foundations that work for the community as well as in the promotion of the arts. □



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Beach NY, Hermosa Beach LA and in Rome. Luca Meliconi (2) and Matteo Marighella (7) will be play-

ing at Eagle Beach as well. These hot-looking guys are 4-time Aruba champions, but they also won (with

Brazilian lady Samantha Barijan (7), who won the championships in Rio and New York as well as the



Aruba International Beach Tennis Event, which is held at Eagle Beach from November 15 - 18. Of course

ravini (2) will be here; they won (with other partners) in Burgas, Bulgaria, San Marino, Tokyo, Bermuda, Long



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other partners) the Italian World Championships 2011 in Rome, Flic En Flac in Mauritius and Fukuoka in Japan. That is not all: we can also see Michele Capeletti and Luca Carli (5) in action; this team has won the European ITF Championships 2011, among others.

tournament in Porto Seguro and, Buzios, Brazil, is ready to take on any female who wishes to dominate in the sand. Watch out, Samantha, as our Marieke Buuts is in top form! Of course we have mentioned only the Italians and Brazilians as the top players



Aruba's long-time friend, baby-faced Alex Mingozzi(8) has won tournaments in China (Sanya) and in Japan. Did you know that the world top 10 players are all Italians? The Italian contingent will have some ferocious battles on its hands, as the Brazilians have practised and practised until almost perfect.

The tough will get going, but the going will be tough for sure. The Brazilians are going to fight the Italians for glory in all categories.

of the exciting beach tennis tournament, but players from countries all over the world will be flying in to play. And let's not forget the Aruban players, who have improved enormously since last year, honing their skills every day of the week. A group of great players will fly to St. Maarten this weekend to participate in its tournament - hopefully they will be able to generate lots of enthusiasm so that lots of St. Maarten teams will come and play this coming week. □

The Carubbian Festival Aruba's Carnival experience every week of the year!

Most visitors don't have the opportunity to experience Aruba's cultural highlight of the year—Carnival (or, as we call it here, Carnaval). But now you can discover the colorful spirit of Aruba's Carnival every Thursday evening at the Carrubian Festival. Situated on the island's southern tip in the heart of San Nicolas where Caribbean and Aruban cultures meet, the Carubbian Festival brings Carnival to life with live Calypso and Soca music, a parade of glittery dancers showcasing many of our past Carnival's gorgeous costumes, festive brass bands, stilt walkers, handicrafts, and traditional homemade cuisine of the Caribbean region.

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- Dinner and beverages
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\$32 children 12 years and under.

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When : Thursdays from 6 pm to 10 pm

Information: visit your guest services desk in your hotel for more information and tickets.

The Carubbian Festival is an initiative of the Ministry of Tourism, Transportation and Labour. Operated by the Carubbian Foundation.



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Freewinds International Public Affairs Convention off to great start!

Oranjestad - Passengers from over 20 nations have gathered in Aruba aboard the "MV Freewinds" for an international public affairs convention. This yearly convention opened with a very fast start as two professional dragsters arrived alongside the ship,

followed by members of the Aruba Harley club who drove the speakers in for the convention. wMs. Aruba, Larissa Leeuw, officially announced the convention as being opened after welcoming remarks from Ms. Carmelita Haynes who

represented the government and peoples of Aruba. The week long convention will focus on creating and implementing effective solutions to the international problems of drug abuse, moral decay and violations of human



rights. The international delegates will take the skills learned this week back to their countries to effectively forward these solutions.

The Freewinds is the longest calling cruise ship to Aruba, contributing economically, educationally and culturally to the island for almost 25 years. □



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SPORTS

Aruba TODAY

LA Conjures Phil Jackson



Phil Jackson, 11-time NBA champion coach.

(Photo)

By GREG BEACHAM
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) -- The Los Angeles Lakers spoke to 11-time NBA champion coach Phil Jackson on Saturday about returning for a third stint on their bench.

The Lakers confirmed on their website that Jackson discussed the job with owner Jim Buss and general manager Mitch Kupchak. They'll meet again early next week.

Los Angeles fired coach Mike Brown on Friday after a 1-4 start to a season of enormous expectations. Interim coach Bernie Bickerstaff led the Lakers to a blowout win over Golden State later that night, and the Lakers said Bickerstaff will coach the club in a home game against Sacramento on Sunday night. Kobe Bryant and Dwight Howard have voiced their interest in playing for Jackson, and the legendary coach's return to the 16-time champion franchise seems probable as long as Jackson decides he's up to another stint in the prestigious job with a team that won five titles and reached seven NBA finals in his 11 seasons on its bench.

"Knowing him the way I do, I think it's really just a matter of health, if he feels physically up to doing it," Bryant said Friday night.



Wilson, Lynch lead Seattle's 28-7 rout of Jets

Seattle Seahawks' Richard Sherman (25) knocks the ball away from New York Jets' Chaz Schilens (85) as Seahawks' Marcus Trufant (23) collides with Jets' Jeremy Kerley during the second half of an NFL football game, Sunday, Nov. 11, 2012, in Seattle. The Seahawks routed the Jets 28-7.

TIM BOOTH

The Associated Press

SEATTLE (AP) -- The Seattle Seahawks are heading into their bye week on a roll as even receivers are throwing

for touchdowns.

Golden Tate let fly with a left-handed shot put throw that fell into the arms of Sidney Rice for a score, then took a well-deserved bow

in Seattle's 28-7 rout of the New York Jets on Sunday. Russell Wilson threw two touchdown passes and Tate found Rice for a 23-yard TD on a reverse pass

(AP Photo/Elaine Thompson)
midway through the fourth quarter.

Continued on Page 18

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NFL Roundup

Marshawn Lynch added 124 yards rushing and a 1-yard TD plunge as the Seahawks (6-4) won their second straight, improved to 5-0 at home and sent the Jets to their worst start since 2007. Lynch also topped 1,000 yards for the season on an 18-yard run, bouncing off tacklers late in the fourth quarter. He has 1,005 for the season. Wilson was harried for much of the day by the multiple looks from the Jets' defense. But the Seattle

rookie responded with key throws, hitting Tate for a 38-yard TD on Seattle's opening drive, then connecting with Rice early in the fourth quarter to give Seattle a two-score advantage. Then came Seattle's closing act. After a penalty wiped out another TD run from Lynch that left Antonio Cromartie buckled and grabbing at air, the Seahawks went into their bag of tricks. Facing first-and-goal at the 23, Wilson handed off to Tate. His windup was methodical and his heave wasn't the prettiest, but the spiral found Rice in

the back of the end zone.

SAINTS 31-FALCONS 27

The Atlanta Falcons can forget about perfection, thanks to their resurgent rivals from the City that Care Forgot. Of all the teams to end Atlanta's unbeaten run, it had to be the New Orleans Saints. And it had to be a memorable, drama-filled game that left the Falcons frustrated by the 1 meager yard they could not get to take a lead inside the final 2 minutes of a 31-27 loss Sunday. "It's very frustrating," said



New Orleans Saints running back Chris Ivory (29) stiff arms Atlanta Falcons cornerback Dunta Robinson (23) on a touchdown run in the first half an NFL football game at the Mercedes-Benz Superdome in New Orleans, Sunday, Nov. 11, 2012. The Saints crushed Atlanta's hopes of a perfect season with a 31-27 victory. (AP Photo/Bill Haber)

Beauty On The Beach

Kenna and Carolina Armstrong

Kenna and Caroline are with their parents on vacation in Aruba, it is their first visit to the island. They are staying at Hyatt Regency Aruba. What they love the most of Aruba are the beaches.

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Falcons coach Mike Smith, who is 2-7 against the Saints and 49-15 against the rest of the NFL in his four-plus regular seasons as Atlanta coach. "We were close. ... This will be something we will learn from." If the Falcons (8-1) want to beat the Saints (4-5) in their rematch in Atlanta on Nov. 29, it would help to learn how to stop dynamic young tight end Jimmy Graham, who caught seven passes for a career-best 146 yards and two touchdowns. Still, Atlanta might have pulled it out, but Jabari Greer made a diving, touchdown-saving pass breakup on a late fourth-down pass intended for Roddy White. "It's not like they came out here and won a game today," White said. "I think we kind of gave it to them. ... We play them in three weeks and we'll be ready." Greer's play represented a

measure of redemption for the veteran, who'd given up two long passes earlier in the game that led to Atlanta scores. "I was kind of depressed before that play," Greer said. "I saw my name on the waiver wire. ... Being able to go out there and make a play for our team and be able to celebrate after everything that happened and just to win that way, it's a gift." Matt Ryan was 34 of 52 for a career-best 411 yards and three touchdowns with one interception. The game was there for him to win when his 9-yard pass to Harry Douglas gave Atlanta a second-and-goal at the 1. But Ryan could not connect on a second-down pass for Gonzalez, the Saints stuffed Michael Turner for a 1-yard loss on third down, and then came Greer's play. □

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Nets hold on, finishing home sweep of Magic

By BRIAN MAHONEY
The Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) -- Brook Lopez scored 20 points, Kris Humphries added 14 points and 21 rebounds, and the Brooklyn Nets beat the Orlando Magic 82-74

turned into a close game. The Nets beat the Magic 107-68 at Orlando on Friday and jumped out to an early 20-point lead in this one. But after losing a 22-point lead at home against Minnesota on



Brooklyn Nets' Deron Williams, center, passes the ball around Orlando Magic's Josh McRoberts, right, and Moe Harkless during the first half of an NBA basketball game in New York, Sunday, Nov. 11, 2012. The Nets beat the Magic 82-74.

(AP Photo/Seth Wenig)

on Sunday to complete a home-and-home sweep. Deron Williams finished with 17 points, seven rebounds, seven assists and a couple key plays down the stretch after what once appeared to be another blowout

Monday, Brooklyn almost coughed up another huge cushion, letting Orlando get within five in the final 2 minutes. Glen Davis had 19 points and 10 rebounds for the Magic, who have dropped four in a row. □

A&M shakes up national title race by edging Bama

The Associated Press
TUSCALOOSA, Alabama

(AP) — Before Oregon, Kansas State and Notre Dame took the field, they got some good news. No. 15 Texas A&M upset No. 1 Alabama 29-24 on Saturday taking one less unbeaten team out of the race for the Bowl Championship Series game. Johnny Manziel and the Aggies shook up the national title race in Tuscaloosa, jumping out to a quick three-touchdown lead and then holding on at the end to Alabama's 13-game winning streak. The Southeastern Conference has won the last six BCS championships, but with Alabama losing and three other teams unbeaten, it will be tough for the SEC to even get in the game without help.

**No. 15 TEXAS A&M 29,
No. 1 ALABAMA 24**

At Tuscaloosa, Alabama, Johnny Manziel and No. 15 Texas A&M shook up the national championship race by beating No. 1 Alabama.

The Crimson Tide didn't go quietly. AJ McCarron nearly pulled off a second straight scintillating comeback. He threw one touchdown pass and motored the ball downfield before Deshaun Everett stepped in front of his fourth-down pass at the goal line with 1:36 left. Manziel passed for 253 yards and rushed for 92 and led the Aggies to a 20-0 first quarter lead.

**No. 2 KANSAS STATE 23,
TCU 10**

At Fort Worth, Texas, Colin Klein ran for two touchdowns, a week after leaving the game early with an apparent head injury.

The Wildcats improved to 10-0 for only the second time under coach Bill Snyder, and moved within two wins of likely reaching their first BCS championship game.

TCU (6-4, 3-4 Big 12) didn't take advantage of Klein's interception on the fourth

other major undefeated teams eligible for a bowl. The Ducks are currently third in the BCS rankings.

**No. 4 NOTRE DAME 21,
BOSTON COLLEGE 6**

At Boston, Everett Golson ran for a touchdown and threw for two more on Saturday night to help Notre



Texas A&M quarterback Johnny Manziel (2) celebrates with teammates after the Aggies defeated top-ranked Alabama 29-24 in an NCAA college football game at Bryant-Denny Stadium in Tuscaloosa, Ala., Saturday, Nov. 10, 2012.

(AP Photo/Dave Martin)

play of the game. The Heisman Trophy hopeful then hit Chris Harper for a 62-yard pass, and ended that drive with a 7-yard TD run.

**No. 3 OREGON 59,
CALIFORNIA 17**

At Berkeley, Californiam Marcus Mariota overcame a brief injury to throw for a career-high 377 yards and tie a school record with six touchdown passes as Oregon made a case for the top ranking in the country by beating California.

The win over California (3-8, 2-6) could be enough to move Oregon up to No. 1 after top-ranked Alabama lost to No. 15 Texas A&M. Even more importantly, the Crimson Tide loss cleared one potential rival for a spot in the BCS title game, leaving Notre Dame and Kansas State as the only

Dame stay unbeaten. Golson completed 16 of 24 passes for 200 yards, connecting with Troy Niklas for a 7-yard touchdown at the end of the first half and with John Goodman from 18 yards out early in the second. Manti Te'o grabbed his sixth interception of the season — a school record for a linebacker — to end BC's last real chance at a comeback with just under 6 minutes left.

**No. 5 GEORGIA 38,
AUBURN 0**

At Auburn, Alabama, Aaron Murray passed for 208 yards and three touchdowns, freshman tailbacks Todd Gurley and Keith Marshall each ran for more than 100 yards and Georgia clinched a spot in the SEC championship game. □

Federer, Djokovic win at ATP finals

CHRIS LEHOURITES

AP Sports Writer

LONDON (AP) — As usual, Roger Federer is looking to add to one of his many records. And as many expected, Novak Djokovic will be trying to stop him. The top two players in the world advanced to the championship match at the ATP finals on Sunday, each looking beatable early before turning things

around.

Federer, a six-time champion at the season-ending event, advanced by beating U.S. Open champion Andy Murray 7-6 (5), 6-2. The top-ranked Djokovic defeated Juan Martin del Potro 4-6, 6-3, 6-2.

"I knew that if I lose today it's the end of the season, so I gave everything I had and couldn't be more happy," Federer said on court

after the match.

The ATP finals is the last tournament of the season, and Federer will face Djokovic in the final match on Monday at the O2 Arena.

Federer found himself in a hole early against Murray, losing his serve in the opening game of the match. But Murray, who lost to Federer in the Wimbledon final but beat him in the Olympic final, couldn't hang on. The 17-time Grand Slam champion broke back to even the score at 4-4, and then recovered from a 3-1 deficit in the tiebreaker to win the opening set and take control of the match. In the second set, Federer lost only two points on serve and broke Murray twice. In the early match, the top-ranked Djokovic started playing his best tennis as soon as it looked like he was headed for his offseason vacation. Djokovic was broken late in the first set and again early in the second, but he then found his stroke and quickly rebounded. □



Novak Djokovic of Serbia plays a return to Juan Martin Del Potro of Argentina, during their ATP World Tour Finals singles semifinal tennis match, at the O2 Arena in London, Sunday, Nov. 11, 2012. (AP Photo/Alastair Grant)

In 3 playoff holes:

Manassero wins Singapore Open

JUSTIN BERGMAN

Associated Press

SINGAPORE (AP) — After already playing 33 holes at the Singapore Open on Sunday, the last thing Matteo Manassero probably wanted was to go back on the course for a playoff hole.

Or two playoff holes. Or three.

The 19-year-old Manassero persevered and holed a 12-foot eagle putt to beat Louis Oosthuizen on the third playoff hole to capture his third European Tour title and by far his biggest paycheck: \$1 million.

It was a very long day on the course for both Manassero and Oosthuizen, the 2010 British Open champion. Tropical downpours on the first two days of the event had created a backlog in the schedule, forcing all the golfers to finish their second rounds Saturday afternoon and then rush back out to start the third as the sun was going down.

Manassero only finished three holes in his third round Saturday, meaning he had to return early Sunday morning to play 15 holes, then after a brief 27-min-

ute rest, start his final round. Oosthuizen played 13 holes to finish his third round in the morning. "It's been a very tiring week," Manassero said. "On 13, I was not feeling that great. I was really



Mateo Manassero of Italy tees off on the fifteenth hole during the third round of the Singapore Open golf tournament at the Serapong Course at Sentosa Golf Club in Singapore on Sunday, Nov. 11, 2012.

(AP Photo/Wong Maye-E)

flat, no more energy left but the adrenaline throughout the day kept me going." Oosthuizen and Manassero both finished at 13-under 271 in regulation. The South

African had seven birdies and three bogeys to card a 67 in the final round, while Manassero, the third-round leader by two strokes, had three birdies in a round of 69. □

Chelsea 1, Liverpool 1: Terry hurt after scoring

ROB HARRIS

AP Sports Writer

LONDON (AP) — John Terry's return from a racism ban ended prematurely in pain Sunday as the Chelsea captain was carried off injured after scoring in a 1-1 draw with Liverpool in the Premier League on Sunday. The veteran defender headed in his 50th Chelsea goal from Juan Mata's corner in the 20th minute after missing the last four domestic matches for racially abusing an opponent. But 15 minutes later, Terry fell awkwardly after a collision with Liverpool striker Luis Suarez, was carried off on a stretcher and later left the ground on crutches

best," Di Matteo said.

Liverpool, though, is languishing in 13th place, looking nowhere near producing its first title since 1990.

"That was our sixth draw, and in a lot of those games we've come back from being behind," Liverpool manager Brendan Rodgers said. "We've got great character and resilience and survival instincts in the group, and we're dominating games with the ball, but you need materials."

"If we can hopefully get one or two in January who can help us at the top end of the field we'll turn draws into wins. Luis just needs that support of instinctive goal-scorers."



Liverpool's Steven Gerrard controls the ball in front of his team player Luis Suarez and Chelsea's Ramires, left, and John Obi Mikel, right, during their English Premier League soccer match at the Stamford Bridge Stadium, London, Sunday, Nov. 11, 2012. (AP Photo/Bogdan Maran)

with a brace on his right knee.

"He's in pain now. He'll go to hospital tomorrow for a scan," Chelsea manager Roberto Di Matteo said. "We hope it's not a serious injury, but we'll see. "He started the game very well, showing the qualities he has, and the experience and influence. It's a real shame he had to come off."

Without Terry, Suarez was left unmarked in the penalty area to head in an equalizer in the 73rd minute.

The draw leaves Chelsea in third, three points behind leader Manchester United. "We're in much better shape than in previous years, in a much better position, and very close to our

Both scorers were at the center of English football's high-profile struggle with racism following incidents last October.

Suarez served an eight-match ban for racially abusing an opponent, while Terry's delayed case meant his suspension for hurling an insult at Queens Park Rangers defender Anton Ferdinand has only just been served. Di Matteo immediately restored Terry to a league starting lineup, even though he was dropped to the bench in the Champions League on Wednesday.

With David Luiz out with tonsillitis, Terry partnered Branislav Ivanovic in central defense — but it was Liverpool's back-four under pressure at the start. □

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Dodgers bid \$25.7 million for South Korean lefty

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — The Los Angeles Dodgers have bid nearly \$26 million for a chance to sign South Korean pitcher Ryu Hyun-jin. The Hanwha Eagles of the Korea Baseball Organization said on Saturday they accepted a posting fee of \$25.7 million for the 25-year-old left-hander. Major League Baseball later announced that the team was the Dodgers. "We are thrilled to have this exciting opportunity," Dodgers general manager Ned Colletti said. "We have watched Ryu pitch for a long time and he is another option to consider as we look to improve our team in 2013 and beyond." The Chicago Cubs and Texas Rangers were also among the clubs thought to be interested in Ryu. Los Angeles

now has 30 days to negotiate a minor league or major league contract with Ryu, who was 98-52 with a 2.80 career ERA during seven seasons in South Korea. He pitched for his country on teams that won a gold medal at the Beijing Olympics in 2008 and reached the final of the 2009 World Baseball Classic. The \$25.7 million fee will be paid to the Eagles only if Ryu signs with the major league team. The posting system brought Japanese stars Yu Darvish, Ichiro Suzuki and Daisuke Matsuzaka to MLB. Last winter, the Rangers gave Darvish a six-year contract guaranteeing him \$56 million after submitting a record \$51,703,411 posting bid to his former team, the Hokkaido Nippon Ham Fighters. □



South Korea starter Ryu Hyun-jin pitches in the first inning against Mexico during a World Baseball Classic game in San Diego. The Los Angeles Dodgers have bid nearly \$26 million for a chance to sign Ryu, the Hanwha Eagles of the Korea Baseball Organization.

(AP Photo/Mark J. Terrill)

NHL labor talks restart

IRA PODELL

AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — NHL owners and players are back at the bargaining table after a one-day break.

Negotiations began Sunday afternoon at the NHL office in Manhattan. Talks took place for four straight days earlier this week before heated discussions ended the run Friday night. The sides were in contact Saturday, leading to an informal lunch in the afternoon.

The decision to formally meet again came Sunday morning.

A few hours into Friday's session, negotiations soured over the core economic differences that separate the sides and threaten the season completely.

The lockout is in its 57th day and has already caused the NHL to call off 327 regular-season games, includ-



National Hockey League Players' Association Executive Director Donald Fehr arrives for talks, in New York. The NHL and NHL Players' Association are back in the boardroom.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

ing the New Year's Day Winter Classic. A lockout wiped out the entire 2004-05 season. □

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Experimental malaria vaccine a letdown for infants

MARIA CHENG
AP Medical Writer

LONDON (AP) — An experimental malaria vaccine once thought promising is turning out to be a disappointment, with a new study showing it is only about 30 percent effective at protecting infants from the killer disease.

That is a significant drop from a study last year done in slightly older children, which suggested the vaccine cut the malaria risk by about half — though that is still far below the protection provided from most vaccines. According to details released on Friday, the three-shot regimen reduced malaria cases by about 30 percent in infants aged 6 to 12 weeks, the target age for immunization.

Dr. Jennifer Cohn, a medical coordinator at Doctors Without Borders, described the vaccine's protection levels as "unacceptably low." She was not linked to the study.

Scientists have been working for decades to de-

velop a malaria vaccine, a complicated endeavor since the disease is caused by five different species of parasites. There has never been an effective vaccine against a parasite. Worldwide, there are several dozen malaria vaccine candi-

dates being researched. In 2006, a group of experts led by the World Health Organization said a malaria vaccine should cut the risk of severe disease and death by at least half and should last longer than one year. Malaria is spread by

mosquitoes and kills more than 650,000 people every year, mostly young children and pregnant women in Africa. Without a vaccine, officials have focused on distributing insecticide-treated bed nets, spraying homes with pesticides and

ensuring access to good medicines.

In the new study, scientists found babies who got three doses of the vaccine had about 30 percent fewer cases of malaria than those who didn't get immunized. The research included more than 6,500 infants in Africa. Experts also found the vaccine reduced the amount of severe malaria by about 26 percent, up to 14 months after the babies were immunized.

Scientists said they needed to analyze the data further to understand why the vaccine may be working differently in different regions. For example, babies born in areas with high levels of malaria might inherit some antibodies from their mothers which could interfere with any vaccination. "Maybe we should be thinking of a first-generation vaccine that is targeted only for certain children," said Dr. Salim Abdulla of the Ifakara Health Institute in Tanzania, one of the study investigators. Results were presented at a conference in South Africa on Friday and released online by the New England Journal of Medicine. The study is scheduled to continue until 2014 and is being paid for by Glaxo-SmithKline and the PATH Malaria Vaccine Initiative. "The results look bad now, but they will probably be worse later," said Adrian Hill of Oxford University, who is developing a competing malaria vaccine. He noted the study showed the Glaxo vaccine lost its potency after several months. Hill said the vaccine might be a hard sell, compared to other vaccines like those for meningitis and pneumococcal disease — which are both effective and cheap. □



A merchant speaks with a woman holding her ill child at a pharmacy in Pailin, Cambodia. The future of a pricey malaria program meant to provide cheap drugs for poor patients may be in jeopardy after health officials clashed over its effectiveness in two new reports.

(AP Photo/David Longstreath)

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Singles Day: China's online shopping holiday

JOE McDONALD
AP Business Writer

BEIJING (AP) — Lei Shujie, a designer in Shanghai, piled up a wish list for Sunday, a quirky holiday dubbed "Singles Day" that has grown into China's — and possibly the world's — busiest online shopping day.

Clothes, a pillow, a cabinet to give a friend — Lei put off buying until Sunday, when retailers promised discounts of up to 70 percent. "The prices are irresistible," she said.

Singles Day was begun by Chinese college students in the 1990s as a version of Valentine's Day for people without romantic partners. The timing was based on the date Nov. 11, or "11.11" — four singles. Unattached young people would treat each other to dinner or give gifts to woo that special someone and end their single status.

That gift-giving helped to turn it into a major shopping event as sellers of everything from jewelry to TVs to cars saw a marketing opportunity and launched Singles Day sales. It is China's answer to Cyber Monday in the United States — the day after Thanksgiving weekend, when online Christmas shopping begins and merchants have their busiest sales day.

Companies that are rushing to cash in on the holiday range from Alibaba Group, operator of China's biggest e-commerce platforms, to rival platforms such as 360buy Ltd., mom-and-pop companies that sell online and delivery services.

In the first 13 hours of selling on Sunday, the 50,000-plus merchants on Alibaba's consumer-oriented Tmall.com took in 10 billion yuan (\$1.6 billion), the company

announced on its microblog account.

That would top the total of \$1.25 billion that research firm comScore said U.S. online retailers took in last year on Cyber Monday and might make Singles Day the biggest e-commerce sales day on record.

"This is very, very big for us," Steve Wang, vice president of Tmall.com and head of website operations, said in a phone interview. The company said on its website that Sunday might be the "biggest e-shopping orgy ever."

The spending binge will be welcome news for communist leaders who want to shift the basis of growth in the world's second-largest economy from trade and investment to consumer spending and service industries. Weak global demand for Chinese exports has added to the urgency of ramping up domestic consumption.

China has the world's biggest population of Internet users, with 538 million people online. Its population of online shoppers also is the biggest at 193 million, versus 170 million for the United States, according to Boston Consulting Group.

It trails the U.S. and Japan in online spending but, despite average incomes less than one-tenth the American level, is forecast to rise to first place as early as 2015. The Communist Party's latest five-year development plan calls for more than quadrupling annual e-commerce volume from 2010 levels to 18 trillion yuan (\$2.9 trillion) by 2015. The party tries to block access to online material deemed subversive or pornographic but promotes Web use for business and education.

"The Internet today in Chi-



Participants who are singles introduce themselves during a matchmaking party organized by one of the biggest Chinese matchmaking websites in Shanghai, China on Sunday Nov. 11, 2012.

Associated Press

na is similar to television in the 1960s and '70s in the West — the place where consumers congregate and companies need to locate," Boston Consulting Group said in an April report.

Alibaba, founded by a former English teacher, Jack Ma, grew into one of the world's biggest e-commerce players by linking Chinese suppliers with Western manufacturers and retailers. It branched into consumer sales with the 2003 launch of Taobao, which operates Tmall.com. Alibaba also operates China's biggest online payment system, Alipay.

Tmall.com accounted for 45.1 percent of business-to-consumer online sales in China in the three months ending in September, according to Analysys International, a research firm in Beijing. 360buy was in second place with 17.4 percent. Boston Consulting Group said more products were sold through Taobao in 2010 — about 48,000 per minute — than at China's top five bricks-and-mortar retailers combined.

"Alibaba has so many assets that they can integrate

in Beijing.

Other rivals include clothing retailer Vancl.com, bookseller Dangdang.com, Amazon.com Inc.'s joint venture with a Chinese partner, and traditional retailers such as consumer electronics chain Suning Ltd. that have expanded online. Walmart Stores Inc., which operates 340 outlets in China, boosted its online presence last month by expanding its stake in online retailer Yihaodian to a controlling 51 percent.

In addition to its e-commerce platform used by other merchants, 360buy also is China's biggest online retailer, selling consumer electronics and other goods directly to customers. □

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Beyond the 'fiscal cliff,' analysts see signs of optimism

By Christina Rexrode
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) -- Forget about the "fiscal cliff."

That might be hard, considering the drama of last week. The stock market had its worst two-day plunge in a year after voters returned President Barack Obama, a Republican House and a Democratic Senate to power. Investors fear the approaching cliff — tax increases and government spending cuts that begin to take effect Jan. 1 unless Obama and Congress can work out a compromise.

Economists say the hit to the economy next year could be \$800 billion and be enough to push the United States back into another recession. And financial analysts are predicting more market turmoil as the deadline approaches.

But lawmakers almost certainly will work out a deal — perhaps messily, unsatisfyingly and with lots of theatrics, but a deal nonetheless. But what happens after that, and to the market in Obama's second term? Home prices are rising

again in many parts of the country. Job growth is much faster than it was last spring. Consumer confidence is up. So is retail

David Kostin, Goldman Sachs's U.S. equity strategist, expects a budget battle in Washington to send the Standard & Poor's 500 index

S&P 500 will reach 1,575, Goldman says, clearing its previous all-time high by 10 points. There are factors that could still hobble the economy, of course.

Median household income has dropped every year since 2007, after adjusting for inflation. The unemployment rate is still high. The Federal Reserve warned last month that job growth, like U.S. economic growth, remains slow. The traditional thinking is that a Democratic president equals higher taxes for businesses. But financial analysts at UBS aren't so sure. In a report before the election, they predicted that the corporate tax rate would drop under Obama or Romney. And anyway, says Carol Pepper, CEO of the wealth management firm Pepper International in New York, companies aren't going to stop growing just because they're faced with higher taxes.

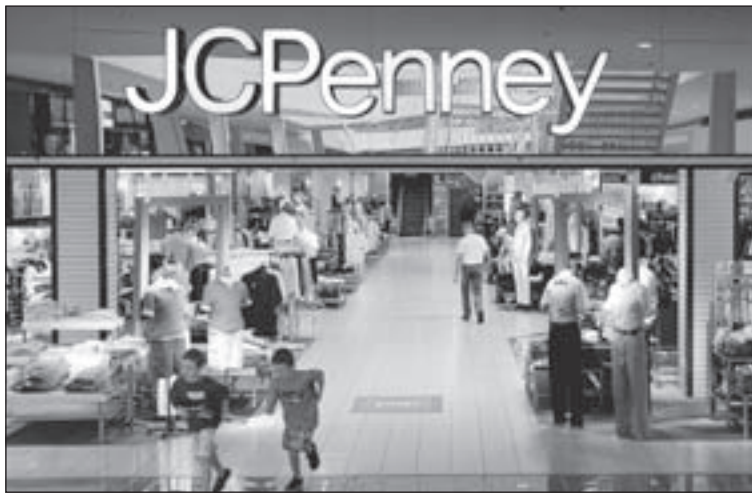
"That," she says, "is cutting off your nose to spite your face." Also, for more than three years, compa-

nies in the S&P 500 have improved earnings every quarter compared with the year before, according to market research company S&P Capital IQ.

Often, their growth has defied expectations. At the beginning of October, analysts were predicting that third-quarter corporate profits would fall nearly 2 percent compared with a year ago.

With about 90 percent of the companies in the S&P 500 turning in results, they're expected to be up more than 2 percent. And higher earnings generally send a company's stock higher. That's no guarantee, of course. Revenue for the third quarter so far is up only about 0.6 percent, which means that companies' profit growth is driven not by selling more goods and services but by cutting costs, which can mean laying off workers or trimming salaries.

And compared with a year ago, the earnings and revenue growth is downright anemic. In the third quarter of 2011, □



Shoppers walk in a J.C. Penney store in Plano, Texas. In the US, consumer confidence is up, and so is retail spending. Home prices are rising again in many parts of the country. Job growth is much faster than it was last spring. And so is the stock market, last week's jitters notwithstanding. Even some of those who think the economy and markets will run into trouble soon see better times on the other side of the cliff.

(AP Photo/LM Otero)

spending. And so is the stock market, last week's jitters notwithstanding.

Even some of those who think the economy and markets will run into trouble soon see better times on the other side of the cliff.

down to 1,250 by the end of the year, about 10 percent lower than where it closed Friday.

Once the fight is finished, however, things should turn around quickly, he says. By the end of next year, the

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Former Citi chief Pandit gets \$6.7 million bonus

NEW YORK (AP)—Citigroup has paid its former CEO Vikram Pandit, who resigned abruptly last month, a bonus of \$6.7 million for work he did for the bank this year.

The bank, which disclosed the payment in a regulatory filing Friday, also paid its former chief operating officer John Havens, who left the bank at the same time Pandit did, \$6.8 million. Citi characterized the payments as "incentive awards" and said the two executives weren't entitled to any severance payments as a result of their departures. The executives will get 40 percent of the money right away, and the rest will be paid in install-

ments through 2017. Citi said Pandit and Havens will continue to vest in deferred stock and deferred cash incentive awards previously

granted to them. Those were worth \$8.8 million for Pandit and \$8.7 million for Havens.

Pandit's sudden separ-



Vikram Pandit, former CEO of Citigroup. Citigroup has paid Pandit, who resigned abruptly in October 2012, a bonus of \$6.7 million for work he did for the bank this year.

(AP Photo/Mark Lennihan)

ture from Citi on Oct. 16 shocked the financial industry. Citi gave no explanation at the time, but it was widely reported that Pandit had fallen out of favor with the company's board. The bank was embarrassed by several missteps including failing a financial checkup this spring with the Federal Reserve, which refused Citi's request to raise its dividend. Pandit joined Citi in 2007 and steered the bank through the financial crisis. He accepted a token \$1 in compensation in 2010 as the bank righted itself. His pay increased to \$15 million in 2011, roughly in line with most of his counterparts. But Citi's shareholders, un-

happy with a 44 percent plunge in the bank's stock price that year, rebuked Citi by rejecting his pay package in a non-binding vote this spring. In the filing, Citi's chairman, Michael O'Neill, said in a statement that Pandit and Havens made important contributions to Citi that warranted the payments. "Vikram steered Citi through the financial crisis, realigned its strategy, bolstered its risk management processes and returned it to profitability ...," O'Neill said. "Based on the progress this year through the date of separation, the Board determined that an incentive award for their work in 2012 was appropriate and equitable." □

China's banking leaders seek to calm concerns over growth

KEITH BRADSHAW

© 2012 New York Times

BEIJING — China's top banking regulators and the chairmen of the four largest banks tried to allay concerns on Sunday that the country was allowing its banking system to grow at a reckless pace as a way to sustain short-term economic growth.

The regulators and bank chairmen said at a rare joint news conference that they were managing the industry prudently and that effective measures had been taken to limit risk even as lending expands briskly. "The risks are within control," Shang Fulin, the chairman of the China Banking Regulatory Commission, said on two separate occasions.

Loans have been climbing steeply as a share of the

economy for four years, prompting foreign bank analysts to question the sustainability of an economic model based on ever more debt invested in a wide range of industries that are already facing overcapacity.

Chinese households and businesses have also begun shunning the very low, regulated interest rates offered by the giant state banks in favor of a wide range of more speculative financial products offered inside and outside the regulatory system.

The central bank has been helping commercial banks sustain extremely heavy lending this autumn by pumping record sums of money into the financial system.

Chinese banks have dispersed their loans across a

wide range of sectors, from autos to steel to solar panels, to limit risk, Shang said. Nonperforming loans represent a smaller percentage of assets at Chinese banks than is typical for large banks around the world.

Foreign analysts have warned that borrowers in many industrial sectors have used bank loans to speculate in real estate, so that the banking sector may have an unintentionally large exposure to the country's real estate market.

The rapid increase in corporate lending has helped pull the economy out of a downturn that occurred over the spring and summer, but it has also increased debt burdens considerably in the corporate sector. □



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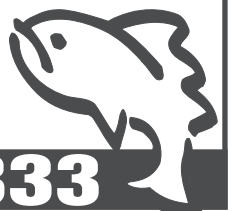


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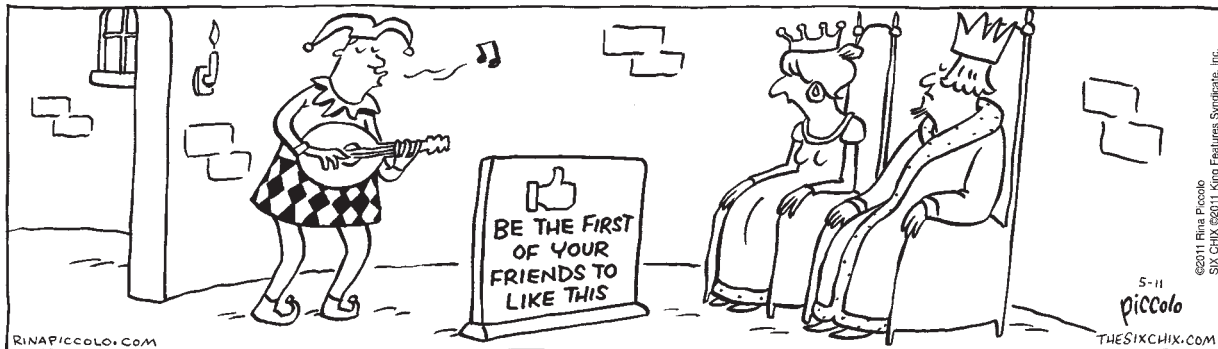
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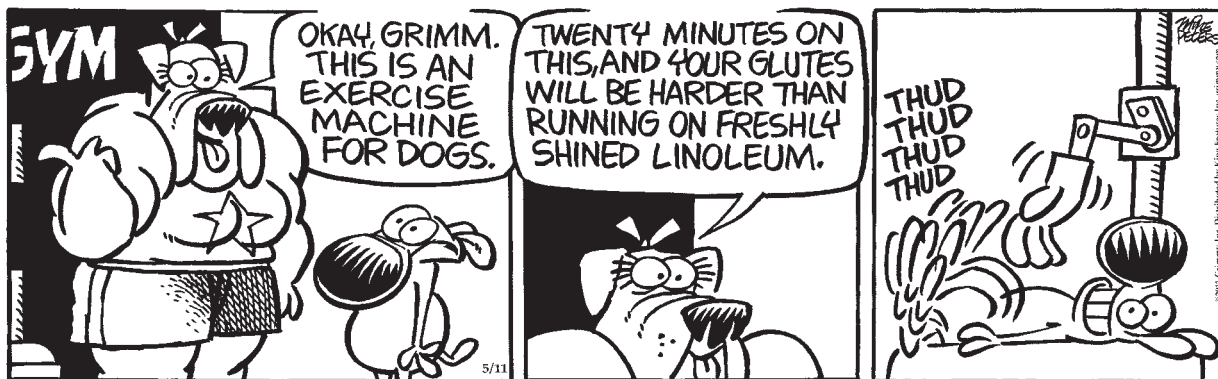
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	4	3	6					
9				8		2	6	
8			4		5			
2		9		7	4			
	1		2	6		8		
		6	1		9	3		
	2			4	6		7	1
	9					4	8	
						5		

Difficulty Level ★★

5/11

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

9	5	1	6	4	3	8	7	2
3	7	6	2	8	5	1	9	4
4	2	8	1	9	7	6	3	5
6	8	4	7	3	9	5	2	1
5	3	2	8	6	1	9	4	7
7	1	9	4	5	2	3	6	8
8	9	5	3	2	4	7	1	6
2	6	7	9	1	8	4	5	3
1	4	3	5	7	6	2	8	9

ACROSS

- "This too ___ pass"
- Make eyes at
- Concern
- Cone-shaped dwelling
- Beer's cousins
- Like fine wine
- Amphitheater
- Caribbean and Mediterranean
- Boring event
- Hold back
- Per person
- Loose ___; bits of unfinished business
- Embroidered little holes
- Did penance
- Portrait holder
- Hightailed it
- Bargains
- Phi Beta ___
- Nobel-winning African bishop
- Plunges in headfirst
- Sidewalk edge
- Gem
- Olympics prize
- Caviar source
- Innocent ones
- Most modern
- ___ on; goaded
- Reason to bathe
- Distributing
- Abnormal
- ___ reflux; stomach woe
- 1/12 of a foot
- For ___; temporarily
- Yell for
- First line on an application, usually
- Harvests
- Patella's place
- Fortune-teller
- Scum; impurity

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14						15				16		
17						18				19		
20					21			22	23			
			24				25					
26	27	28				29						
30				31		32			33	34	35	36
37			38		39			40		41		
42				43		44			45		46	
			47		48			49		50		
51	52	53				54						
55						56				57	58	59
60						61	62			63		
64						65				66		
67						68				69		

5/11/11

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

W	O	N		U	M	B	E	R		D	R	A	T
I	D	O	L		N	E	R	V	E		W	A	C
G	O	N	E		C	R	I	E	S		E	C	R
				R	E	S	I	L	I	E	N	T	
					S	C	A	T			L	A	B
E	C	H	O	E	D		B	L	E	S	S	I	N
R	A	I	N	S		B	R	A	S	H		N	O
I	N	N	S		B	O	O	T	S		I	N	T
C	A	D		E	L	A	T	E		C	R	E	E
S	L	U	G	G	I	S	H			C	O	A	R
					Y	O	N			P	L	A	N
L	I	A	R			D	E	V	I	A	T	I	O
I	N	C	A		E	R	I	N	S		A	N	E
C	A	N	T		R	I	S	E	S		N	E	A
K	N	E	E		S	E	E	D			S	T	I

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5/11/11

DOWN

- Celebrity
- In this location
- Ridicules

- Of a pre-Easter period
- Mastered
- Desert refuge
- Secluded valley
- Actor Nicholas
- Students' written works
- Coupe de Ville or Seville
- See eye to eye
- Respond to a stimulus
- Margins
- ___ up; tallied
- Quick look
- ___ up; relaxed
- Painting and sculpture
- Tight, as a rope
- Aware of the duplicity of
- Santa's helpers
- Shot carefully
- Untainted
- Experts
- Help in crime
- Loosen from a restraint

- Like the beach surface
- Make, as a salary
- Spotted cat
- Starts
- Author
- Hit; slap
- Nut variety
- Useful
- Each ___; one another
- Peak
- Italian farewell
- Elec. current units
- Not as much
- Scottish "no"

T.S. Eliot's widow Valerie Eliot dies at 86

JILL LAWLESS

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Valerie Eliot, the widow of T.S. Eliot and zealous guardian of the poet's literary legacy for almost half a century, has died. She was 86.

In a statement Sunday, the Eliot estate said Valerie Eliot died two days before at her London home after a short illness.

Born Valerie Fletcher in Leeds, northern England, on Aug. 17, 1926, Eliot was the second wife of the U.S.-born Nobel literature laureate. She met him at London publisher Faber & Faber, where he was a director and she a star-struck secretary who had been a fan of his work since her teenage years.

"I felt I knew him as a person" from his poems, she told The Independent newspaper in 1994, "and evidently I did."

The poet's first marriage, to the mercurial Vivienne Haigh-Wood, had been unhappy; she died in an asylum in 1947.

He and Valerie wed in 1957, and friends described the marriage as a happy one despite the almost 40-year gap in their ages.

Valerie Eliot later recalled that their routine included evenings at home eating cheese and playing Scrabble and trips to the theater.

"He obviously needed a happy marriage," she later

said. "He wouldn't die until he'd had it."

After T.S. Eliot's death in 1965, Valerie became his executor, editing his poems



Valerie Eliot, the widow of T.S. Eliot, has died. She was 86.

(AP Photo/Richard Lewis)

and letters for publication and steadfastly refusing to cooperate with would-be biographers, in keeping with the poet's last wishes. She did, however, welcome the unlikely idea of a stage musical based on a volume of Eliot's whimsical verses, "Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats." It became the Andrew Lloyd Webber musical "Cats," a global hit that brought in huge sums for the Eliot estate.

Valerie Eliot used some of the windfall to set up a literary charity, Old Possum's Practical Trust. She also funded the T.S. Eliot Prize, an annual award for poetry.

She oversaw publication of a much-praised facsimile

edition of T.S. Eliot's modernist masterpiece "The Waste Land" — whose bleakness was thought by some to have been influenced by his first marriage — and edited multiple volumes of letters that gave scholars new insights into the intensely private poet. The latter was a long and unfinished project — the third volume of letters, published earlier this year, reaches only to 1927. Valerie Eliot rarely gave interviews, but did speak to The Independent in 1994 on the release of the movie "Tom and Viv," which portrayed the poet's first wife as an adventurous spirit neglected by an unfeeling husband. Valerie defended T.S. Eliot against the allegation of neglect in his first marriage.

"Tom tried very hard and for a very long time to make a go of it, and he's never given credit for that, is he?" she said. □

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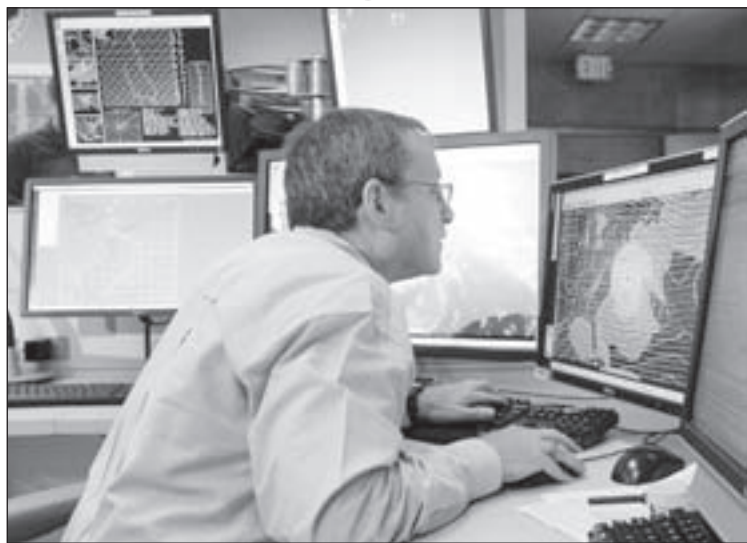
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Predicting presidents, storms and life by computer



In this Sunday, Oct. 28, 2012 file photo, chief hurricane specialist James Franklin looks at computers tracking Hurricane Sandy at the National Hurricane Center in Miami. In just two weeks this fall, computer models displayed an impressive prediction prowess, from predicting Superstorm Sandy to who would win the U.S. presidential election.

SETH BORENSTEIN
AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Forget political pundits, gut instincts, and psychics. The mightier-than-ever silicon chip seems to reveal the future.

In just two weeks this fall, computer models displayed an impressive prediction prowess.

It started when the first computer model alerted meteorologists to the late October disaster headed for the U.S. Northeast from a bunch of clouds in the Caribbean. Nearly a week later, that weather system became Hurricane Sandy and grew into a superstorm.

Associated Press

after taking a once-in-a-century sharp turn into New Jersey.

Then, statistician and blogger Nate Silver correctly forecast on his beat-up laptop how all 50 states would vote for president. He even predicted a tie in Florida and projected it eventually would tip to President Barack Obama, which is the equivalent of predicting a coin landing on its side. He did it by taking polling data, weighing it for past accuracy and running 40,000 computer simulations at a time.

He then gave his forecast in terms of percentages, saying that Obama had a

91 percent chance of being re-elected.

In the case of Sandy, lives were at stake. With the election, reputations were on the line and some pundits were dismissive of the computer modeling. Bets were made. Challenges issued.

The math experts came out on top thanks to better and more accessible data and rapidly increasing computer power.

"In this particular case, rationality scored a win," said Princeton University neuroscientist Sam Wang, who since 2004 has been using mathematical formulas and polling data to predict elections for the Princeton Election Consortium. Wang predicted a "100 percent chance" of an Obama victory, but missed Florida, giving it to Republican Mitt Romney. For the record, Wang notes that he beat Silver at accurate Senate race predictions.

Computers soon should be able to tell health officials where the next food poisoning outbreak will spread, a U.S. government lab predicts.

Tom Mitchell, head of the Machine Learning Department at Carnegie Mellon University, called computer model predictions based on historical evidence “one of the more positive trends we’re going to see this century. ... We’re just

beginning."

Take a look at baseball, where Silver got his start as a statistics geek. The Oakland A's, a team that famously uses computer statistics in selecting players, surprised everyone by getting into the playoffs despite one of the lowest payrolls in baseball.

Computer modeling tells the government what happens when a nuclear bomb explodes, helped Goodyear make a better tire and helped the makers of Pringles figure out how to keep the potato crisps from breaking in the can, said Bill Tang, program director for the Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory simulation program.

Every time you swipe a credit card, a computer is using predictive models based on past evidence to determine if it's really you or if it is fraud, Mitchell added.

For about 40 years, climate scientists have used computer models to predict what global warming will look like with dead-on accuracy, said climate computer modeler Andrew Weaver of the University of Victoria in British Columbia. For computer models to make predictions, three things are needed: computer power, mathematical formulas designed to mirror real world cause-and-effects and current

conditions converted into numbers that can be used in formulas.

Experts input the data of current conditions into the formulas that say if X and Y happen, then it will produce Z. Then the computers run those what-if simulations over and over again, with slight variations changing the end results. These scenarios are run tens of thousands of times, giving a whole range of outcomes.

The key is seeing what happens most often and why. It's not a dead-on prediction, but breaks down the future into probabilities.

"It's essentially solving equations that are too extensive to solve with pencil and paper," Weaver explained.

It all comes down to collecting data, crunching it and spitting out probabilities. It's evidence turned into numbers. It's math. Experts believe it's the future.

Silver said what he did with the election was nothing compared with what meteorologists did with Sandy, which was a matter of "real life-and-death consequences."

The National Weather Service forecast an extremely rare due-west turn by the storm into southern New Jersey, he said.

"It's astounding. That's a huge win for computer modeling." □

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Madonna fan guilty in NYC

NEW YORK (AP) — A former firefighter with a crush on Madonna has been convicted of resisting arrest outside her former New York City apartment building as he spray-painted poster boards with love notes. A jury delivered its verdict Friday in Robert Linhart's trial. He could face up to a year in jail. Defense lawyer Lawrence LaBrew tells the New York Post that Linhart will appeal. Linhart was arrested in September 2010. Police say he parked his SUV outside the singer's Manhattan apartment, laid out a tarp and wrote out such messages as "Madonna, I need you." Jurors told the Post they felt it was fine for Linhart to express himself to the Material Girl. But they said they believed police testimony that he resisted arrest by flailing his arms. □

Sotheby's to sell Mick Jagger's love letters

LONDON (AP) — Handwritten letters from Rolling Stones frontman Mick Jagger to his former lover Marsha Hunt will be auctioned in London next month. Hunt is an American-born singer who was the inspiration for the Stones' 1971 hit "Brown Sugar" and bore Jagger's first child. Sotheby's said Saturday that Hunt has tasked the auction house with selling 10 letters written from the set of Jagger's film "Ned Kelly," which was shooting in Australia. Hunt said the letters chronicling their "delicate love affair" and secret history touch on subjects such as the first moon landing and John Lennon and Yoko Ono.

"When a serious historian finally examines how and why Britain's boy bands affected international culture and politics, this well-preserved collection of Mick Jagger's hand written letters will be a revelation,"



This Saturday, July 5, 1969 file photo shows Mick Jagger, lead singer of The Rolling Stones, singing during a free, five-hour concert before nearly 250,000 fans in Hyde Park in London, England. Handwritten letters from Rolling Stones frontman Mick Jagger to his former lover Marsha Hunt will be auctioned in London next month.

(AP Photo/Peter Kemp)

she said in a statement distributed by the auction house.

Sotheby's books specialist Gabriel Heaton said the letters sent in the summer of 1969 show a "poetic and self-aware" 25-year-

old Jagger. "They provide a rare glimpse of Jagger that is very different from his public persona: passionate but self-contained, lyrical but with a strong sense of irony," Heaton said. Sotheby's said the collec-

tion, which includes song lyrics and a Rolling Stones playlist, is expected to fetch between 70,000 and 100,000 pounds (\$111,300 and \$159,000) and will go under the hammer on December 12. □

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007 kills with \$87.8M 'Skyfall' debut

DAVID GERMAIN

AP Movie Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — James Bond's "Skyfall" has extended its worldwide box-office rule to North America, hauling in a franchise-record \$87.8 million in its first weekend at U.S. theaters. Adding in \$2.2 million from Thursday night previews at IMAX and other large-format theaters, "Skyfall" has taken in \$90 million domestically, according to studio estimates Sunday. That lifts the worldwide total for "Skyfall" to \$518.6 million since it began rolling out overseas in late October. Internationally, the 23rd Bond flick added \$89 million this weekend to raise its overseas revenue to \$428.6 million.

The third installment starring Daniel Craig as British super-spy Bond, "Skyfall" outdid the \$67.5 million U.S. debut of 2008's "Quantum of Solace," the franchise's previous best opening. "Skyfall" more than doubled the \$40.8 million debut of Craig's first Bond film, 2006's "Casino Royale."

"Skyfall" already has passed the \$407.7 million overseas total for "Quantum of Solace" and by Monday, it will top the \$432.2 million international haul for "Casino Royale." The Craig era has reinvigorated one of Hollywood's most-enduring franchises, whose first big-screen Bond adventure, "Dr. No," debuted 50 years ago.

"It's quite a testament to Bond, considering it's the 50th anniversary. What a great anniversary present," said Rory Bruer, head of distribution at Sony, which produces the Bond films along with MGM.

"Skyfall" was the weekend's only new wide release, but Steven Spielberg's "Lincoln" had a huge start in a handful of theaters. Starring Daniel Day-Lewis as the 16th president, "Lincoln" took in \$900,000 in 11 theaters for a whopping average of \$81,818 a cinema. By comparison, "Skyfall" averaged \$25,050 a cinema in 3,505 theaters.

"Skyfall" took over the top spot at the weekend box

office from Disney's animated comedy "Wreck-It Ralph," which fell to No. 2 with \$33.1 million, raising its domestic total to \$93.7 million.

While "Skyfall" marked a new high for Bond's opening-weekend revenue, the film has a long way to go to match the biggest audiences 007 has ever drawn. Adjusted for inflation, Sean Connery's 1965 Bond adventure "Thunderball" would have taken in an estimated \$508 million domestically in today's dollars, with its 1964 prede-

cessor analyst Paul Dergarabedian. "By taking it to a whole other level, this is a different kind of Bond that can be taken really seriously."

Directed by Sam Mendes, the Academy Award-winning filmmaker behind "American Beauty" and Craig's director on "Road to Perdition," "Skyfall" continues the current franchise's exploration into the emotional traumas that have shaped Bond's cool, aloof manner.

The film reveals secrets out of the past of Bond's



British actor Daniel Craig poses for a photograph with spectators as he arrives for the German premiere of the James Bond film "Skyfall" in Berlin, Germany.

(AP Photo/Gero Breloer)

cessor "Goldfinger" not far behind at \$444 million, according to box-office tracker Hollywood.com.

The Bond films over the last two decades have come in around the \$200 million range domestically in inflation-adjusted dollars. Still, Craig's Bond is setting a new critical standard for the franchise. While "Quantum of Solace" had a so-so critical reception, "Skyfall" and "Casino Royale" are among the best-reviewed Bond films, with critics and fans enjoying the darker edge Craig has imprinted on 007.

"'Skyfall' is to the Bond franchise what 'The Dark Knight' was to the Batman franchise," said Hollywood.

boss, British spymaster M (Judi Dench), and pits 007 against a brilliant but unstable former agent (Javier Bardem) who is out for revenge.

Hollywood remains on a brisk pace this fall as the busy holiday season approaches. Overall domestic revenues totaled \$172 million, up 26 percent from the same weekend last year, when "Immortals" led with \$32.2 million.

For the year, domestic revenues are at \$9.1 billion, up 4.3 percent from 2011's, according to Hollywood.com. Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Hollywood.com. □

Judy Garland's Oz dress nabs \$480K

BEVERLY HILLS, California

(AP) — Judy Garland's blue pinafore dress that she wore in "The Wizard of Oz" has sold for \$480,000.

Auction house Julien's Auctions says the gingham dress fetched the highest price of any item during a two-day auction of Hollywood memorabilia that attracted bids from around the world. The auction ended Saturday in Beverly Hills, California.

Steve McQueen's racing jacket sold for \$50,000, as did a purple skirt worn by Marilyn Monroe while filming "River of No Return" in Canada. Julie Andrews' "Sound of Music" dress brought \$38,400. Sunglasses worn by Jean Reno in "Leon" went for \$8,320, while Johnny Depp's shades fetched \$3,250. Bidders also snapped up pieces of royal wedding cakes. Prince William and Kate



The blue-and-white gingham pinafore dress worn by Judy Garland in her iconic role of Dorothy designed by Adrian for the 1939 film "The Wizard of Oz," at the Hollywood Costume exhibition at the Victoria and Albert museum in London.

(AP Photo/Alastair Grant)

Middleton's cake sold for \$7,500 while Prince Charles and Princess Diana's cake sold for \$1,375. □

AP source:

Bieber, Gomez break up

ALICIA RANCILIO

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A source confirms to The Associated Press that Justin Bieber is no longer Selena Gomez's "Boyfriend." The source is not authorized to discuss the split with the press and spoke on condition of anonymity. The breakup apparently happened last week, and distance and their busy schedules were cited as factors. The 18-year-old Bieber is touring to pro-

mote his latest album, "Believe," which contains the hit "Boyfriend." Gomez, 20, is filming a "Wizards of Waverly Place" reunion for the Disney Channel. The pair made their relationship public in February 2011. E! News was the first to report the split. Bieber seems to be doing OK, at least publicly. On the red carpet of Wednesday's Victoria's Secret fashion show he said, "I'd rather be here than anywhere in the world." □



Justin Bieber and girlfriend Selena Gomez at the 2011 Much Music Video Awards in Toronto. Bieber is no longer Gomez's 'Boyfriend,' a source confirms to the AP. The split happened last week and distance and their busy schedules were a contributing factor. (AP Photo)

Election Data Dive



CHARLES M. BLOW
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Since this may be my last column about the 2012 elections, let's have some fun. Allow me to arm you with a collection of facts and data about the election results that you can use at your next cocktail party, during your next coffee break or during your next PTA meeting. First, a comment about the exit polls from which most of these data are drawn: They were conducted only in 30 states. And, unfortunately, the balance of states polled tilted heavily toward those won by President Barack Obama. Of the 25 states Obama won, exit polls were conducted in all but three. Obama also won the District of Columbia, which had no exit polls. Of the 24 states Mitt Romney won, exit polls were conducted only in eight. (Obama is leading in Florida, which would be a 26th state won by Obama and a state for which there are exit polls. However, The New York Times had not yet called the state for Obama at the time of publication.)

With those caveats, let's dive in: — My analysis of the 2008 election found that even if every black person in America had stayed home on Election Day, Obama would still have won the presidency.

That's because the white vote and Hispanic vote were strong enough to push him over the needed 270 votes to win the Electoral College.

This year is a different story. This year, his path to victory required a broader coalition.

Without the Democratic black vote joining with that of liberal whites and Hispanics on Tuesday, Obama would likely have lost half the states that he won. This fact may embolden those who say that the president should more directly address issues facing the African-American community.

— There may have been a backlash against voter suppression laws, bringing more minorities to the polls, not fewer.

Hispanics as a share of all voters were up in many states won by Obama. That can be attributed both to the surging Hispanic population in the country and to the Obama campaign's incredible get-out-the-vote operation.

It is less clear why the black vote held steady or grew in many of those states. In Ohio for example, blacks jumped from 11 percent of the voters in 2008 to 15 percent this year. Threaten to steal something, and its owner's grip grows tighter.

— Romney won nine of the 11 states that were once in the Confederacy.

— Romney also won eight of the 10 states with the lowest population density: Alaska, Wyoming, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Idaho, Nebraska and Utah. Obama won New Mexico and Nevada. (Hello. Hello. Hello. Is there an echo in here?)

— Romney's biggest margin of victory came in Utah, home of the Mormon Church. Utah was one of three states in which Romney won every county. The other two were West Virginia and Oklahoma. Obama only won every county in two states: Connecticut and Vermont.

— This year was the first presidential election in which there were more Asian-American voters (11 percent) in California than African-American ones (8 percent). In 2008, 6 percent were Asian-American and 10 percent were African-American.

In fact, there were more Asian-American voters than African-Americans in Washington and Oregon, the other two Pacific Coast states, this year, too.

— Among the states in which exit polls were conducted, Obama won the lowest percent of the white vote in the state with the highest percentage of black voters.

That state was the ever-reliable Mississippi, where Romney made his famous "I like grits" comment.

Thirty-six percent of the voters in Mississippi are black. Obama won a mere 10 percent of the white vote there.

Conversely, Obama won one of his highest percentages of white voters in the state with the fewest minority voters: Maine.

Ninety-five percent of Maine's voters were white, and 57 percent of them voted for Obama. That ties with one other state for the highest percent of whites voting for Obama: Massachusetts, where 86 percent of the voters are white.

In fact, Obama won the white vote only among states with small minority voting populations. The others Obama won were Iowa (93 percent white), New Hampshire (93 percent white), Oregon (88 percent white), Connecticut (79 percent white) and Washington state (76 percent white).

This is quite a curious phenomenon.

— Obama won all four states that begin with "New" (New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico and New York), but he lost all five that begin with a "d" (North Carolina, South Carolina, North Dakota, South Dakota and West Virginia). OK, I just threw that one in for fun.

Now, political junkies, go forth and spout facts! □



No Heat Till Christmas?



JOE NOCERA
© 2012 New York Times

On Friday morning, I drove out to the Rockaways with Nan Shipley, a 48-year-old real estate broker and mother of three. Though we barely know each other, she had been sending me emails all week, updating me about the problems facing residents of the Rockaways, the thin peninsula on the southern edge of Queens that had been decimated by Hurricane Sandy. Shipley, who lives in Manhattan, had been going out there every day since last Saturday, volunteering in the hard-hit enclave of Belle Harbor, where a Roman Catholic church, St. Francis de Sales, had essentially been taken over by relief workers. She had expected to help out for a day or two, assuming that the Red Cross, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, or state and city workers would quickly take over.

But that hadn't happened. As one day bled into the next, the volunteers had organized themselves. Leaders emerged who, with no prior experience, figured out how to help people in a disaster. They found restaurants willing to donate hot meals, rented buses to truck in more volunteers and brought in supplies to help residents battle the cold weather.

By Friday, when I arrived in Belle Harbor with Shipley, the church had been transformed into a model of efficient distribution. A volunteer disaster relief organization, Team Rubicon, made up of military veterans, had parachuted in and organized it to a fare-thee-well: meals given out on this side, diapers and baby food over there. To the extent that there was a government presence, it consisted mainly of a Medicare truck parked outside.

Near the church, I could see homes that had burned down. Most of the other houses were uninhabitable. Cars were sometimes strewn up on sidewalks. Nobody had power. "Things have gotten a lot better," Shipley said, as I looked at the scene in amazement. "The Sanitation Department has done a great job of cleaning up the debris."

We drove farther east to Far Rockaway, a much poorer area. There were long lines at various churches that were serving as distribution centers. Although there were police officers everywhere, the hard work of getting Far Rockaway residents help had, once again, fallen to volunteers.

At the Church of the Nazarene in Far Rockaway, however, I did see a FEMA presence; I was told that they had arrived Thursday. You would think that FEMA, with all its expertise, would be coordinating the relief effort. But you would be wrong. When I asked one FEMA official what they were doing, he said they were mainly trying to make sure that residents applied for assistance. That is not insignificant, of course, but it's not exactly leading the charge.

In a nearby building, the office of the local city councilman, James Sanders Jr., had been transformed into a mini-disaster-relief headquarters. Sanders sounded deeply frustrated. "It is getting cold out here," he said. He had just come from a meet-

ing with the Long Island Power Authority, where he had been informed that no one would get power until an electrician had inspected their homes. "I told them that was impossible," he said. "People aren't going to have heat until Christmas."

When I called Mayor Michael Bloomberg's office to ask why so much of the relief effort had been left to volunteers, I got immense pushback.

Cas Holloway, one of Bloomberg's deputy mayors, told me the city had handed out 2 million meals.

The city was coordinating with the Salvation Army, he said, and was a big presence in the Rockaways. It had set up five distribution centers there. It was paying food trucks to give out free food.

Be that as it may, I can tell you that that is not the experience of many volunteers — or residents — of the Rockaways. Before the storm hit, Mayor Bloomberg said that New York City didn't need FEMA's help because the city had "everything under control." You don't have to spend much time in Queens to realize that New York City needs all the help it can get.

It is extremely fortunate that it is getting so much help from volunteers.

Before we left the Rockaways, Shipley and I met a man who had come into Sanders' office looking for help. He had two children, he said, including a 2-month-old who had had bronchitis and had just gotten out of the hospital.

"Our house is too cold," he kept saying, wiping tears from his eyes. "The baby will get sick again. We need a place to stay."

After talking to the man, Shipley walked back to the Church of the Nazarene to see if one of the FEMA officials could do something.

A few minutes later, she came back frowning. "He said to call 911," she said. □

China:

Communist party digs in amid calls to open politics

EDWARD WONG

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BEIJING — As the Communist Party's 18th Congress approached, Li Weidong, a scholar of politics, made plans to observe a historic leadership battle in one of the world's great nations. Instead of staying in Beijing to monitor China's once-a-decade transfer of power, Li boarded a plane.

"I'm going to the United States to study the elections," Li said in a telephone interview during a stopover in Paris. After witnessing the American presidential election Tuesday, Li went on the radio for another interview. "I still think China's politics remain prehistoric," he said. "I often joke that the Chinese civilization is the last prehistoric civilization left in the world."

With China at a critical juncture, there is a rising chorus within the elite expressing doubt that the 91-year-old Communist Party's authoritarian system can deal with the stresses bearing down on the nation and its 1.3 billion people. Policies introduced after 1978 by Deng Xiaoping lifted hundreds of millions out of poverty and transformed the country into the world's second-largest economy. But the way party leaders have managed decades of growth has created towering problems that critics say can no longer be avoided. Many of those critics have benefited from China's stunning economic gains, and their ranks include billionaires, intellectuals and children of the party's revolutionary founders. But they say the party's agenda, as it stands today, is not visionary enough to set China on the path to stability. What is needed, they say, is a comprehensive strategy to gradually extricate the Communist Party, which has more than 80 million members, from its heavy-handed control of the economy, the courts, the news media, the military, educational institutions, civic life and just the plain day-to-day affairs of citizens. Only then, the critics argue,

can the government start to address the array of issues facing China, including rampant corruption, environmental degradation, and an aging population whose demographics have been skewed because of the one-child policy.

"In order to build a real market economy, we have to have real political reform," said Yang Jisheng, a veteran journalist and a leading historian of the Mao era. "In the next years, we should have a constitutional democracy plus a market economy."

For now, however, party leaders have given no indication that they intend to curb their role in government in a meaningful way. "We will never copy a Western political system," Hu Jintao, the departing party



A guard asks a photographer to leave, as he was trying to get a shot of Chinese President Hu Jintao delivering his last work report, during the 18th Communist Party Congress at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing.

(Sim Chi Yin/The New York Times)



A man walks by a statue of former Chinese Communist party leader Mao Zedong in Shenyang, China. A rising chorus of critics say the Communist Party's agenda, as it stands today, is not visionary enough to handle China's looming crises, including corruption and environmental degradation, and set the nation on the path to stability.

(Sim Chi Yin/The New York Times)

chief, said in a speech Thursday opening the weeklong congress.

The party's public agenda, which Hu described in detail in his 100-minute address, was laid out in a 64-page report that is in part intended to highlight priorities for the new leaders, who will be announced this month. Much of the document had retrograde language that emphasized ideology stretching back to Mao and had little in the way of bold or creative thinking, said Qian Gang, the director of the China Media Project at the University of Hong Kong. Most telling, there was no

language signaling that the incoming Politburo Standing Committee, the group that rules China by consensus, would support major changes in the political system, whose perversions many now say are driving the nation toward crisis.

"What happens in this kind of economy is that wealth concentrates where power is," said Yang, the journalist. The 400 or so incoming members of the party's Central Committee, Politburo and Politburo Standing Committee, as well as their friends and families, have close ties to the most powerful of China's 145,000 state-owned enterprises. In

fact, the growing presence of princelings — the children of notable Communist officials — in the party, the government and corporations could mean an even more closely meshed web of nepotism. It is a system that Xi Jinping, the anointed to be the next party chief and president and himself a member of the "red nobility," would find hard to unravel, even if he wanted to. "There are people who run state-owned enterprises who are Xi Jinping's friends, relatives and old classmates," said Zhang Lifan, a historian. "This group is part of his political energy and support base. If Xi Jinping is willing to reform, he must sacrifice the interests of these people for the long-term good." "The finance system is very corrupt," he said in a telephone interview. "The country should allow private banks to do financing, especially for peasants and the rural population." China's systemic problems are most evident in the countryside. Land seizures by officials looking to sell property to developers are the most common cause of the growing number of protests. "Land, finances, medical care and education resources are too concentrated," Sun said. "The majority of the

nation's resources are concentrated on welfare for party members and government workers."

The growth-at-all-costs development model also has led to widespread environmental destruction and a surge of protests against industrial projects from middle-class urban residents. At a news conference Thursday, the opening day of the party congress, Yi Gang, deputy governor of China's central bank, acknowledged the problem: "After 30 years of development, there is no big difference from developed countries in what we eat and wear," he said. "Where we lag behind is in the air and the water."

But the only way to really address endemic problems like these, critics say, is to create a political system, with checks and balances, that is designed to benefit ordinary Chinese rather than officials and their cronies, and is able to meet the demands of a rapidly changing society.

"It is still possible for China to get on the right track while staying stable," said Li, the scholar who observed the American vote. "It is also possible, however, for the party to miss the opportunity and devolve into chaos." □